

Young Winston's smile is just the ticket

NATIONAL Lottery tickets allow holders the option of electing for "no publicity". Winston Churchill (C. Davy-hulme) must have forgotten to tick the box, so one would like to report that the time-light now embarrasses him. But there was no sign of it at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday.

You certainly cannot accuse the young Winston of running away from trouble there he was, as large as life, below the gangway, beaming from ear to ear as Labour MPs berated him, and fellow-Tories cringed. This man is either careless of what people think, or too insensitive to notice.

Paul Flynn, the Labour

Member for Newport W, is something of a jester. Yesterday he brandished at the Prime Minister a letter from a constituent, Mr W. D. Might, who had told his MP he would "never again buy a National Lottery ticket". Mr Churchill smiled gently, Flynn went on. He objected to the proceeds of the lottery fund going to the "rich and greedy". Churchill's smile grew even broader.

Sounding less than convinced, John Major tried a defence of the lottery committee's decision. The corners of the Churchill mouth were by now within a whisker of the lobes of the Churchill ears. Then the wind must have changed, for the young Win-



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

ston's grin froze and remained fixed for the next ten minutes, taking us almost to the end of PM's Questions. Almost, but not quite. Last came a question from Lynne Jones (Lab, Birmingham, Selly Oak) would the Prime Minister agree that Britain's 0.8 per cent economic growth over the last quarter was generated almost entirely by the sale of lottery tickets?

Mr Churchill's teeth now seemed to stretch right across the front of his head, and round the sides, like a zip.

unzipped. But Lynne Jones had more. Unless, she said, the National Lottery was "a scheme to enrich Tory MPs" then shouldn't Mr Major "ask the honourable Member for Davyhulme to pay the money back?"

We couldn't actually hear the zip unzipping around the back of Mr Churchill's neck, too, but from the breadth of the grin across the visible part of his head there was little doubt that the Churchill cranium had now been entirely detached. Some of his

colleagues would question whether that would make any difference, but it is not for us to speculate. Wisely, John Major ignored the more personal part of Dr Jones's question, urged her to "come off it", and concentrated on the British economic performance.

A fluent and rather spirited Prime Ministerial rant about the strength of the UK recovery was marred only when, after an impressive list of the new markets British industry had conquered, Mr Major dimmed with the news that, more and more, our exporters were conquering "markets outside the world". Here, perhaps, his optimism ran ahead even of our own. Mars

bars notwithstanding, it was hard to imagine exporters offloading unsold Sinclair C5s on to an eager public in Saturn. Venusians scrambling for the latest rocketship-full of Ovaltine and Marmite; inflatable Mr Blobbies for sale on Pluto; or the Advanced Passenger Train in service on Uranus.

Nevertheless (and until the PM corrected himself) it was an engaging thought. Your sketchwriter left the Chamber picturing our premier hurtling through Outer Space on the ultimate election-winner: an inter-galactic export-drive, messaging the Moon, leafleting the stars, and faxing the asteroids as he passed.

Major's critics divided on early challenge

By Philip Webster
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Prime Minister's fiercest critics are to hold consultations over the weekend to decide whether to make any early move against his leadership in the wake of the expected Conservative rout in tomorrow's local elections. Rumblings over a possible challenge have resurfaced in the run-up to tomorrow's vote; and there are widespread indications that disenchantment runs more deeply than it did a year ago when the Conservatives suffered heavy losses in the European elections.

But John Major's strongest opponents appear to be divided over the wisdom of attempting to force a challenge in the immediate aftermath of the elections, even though they believe a substantial number of Tory MPs would like to see a change.

A senior strategist on the Tory right said yesterday that it was now certain that there would be a "stalking-horse" challenge to Mr Major in the autumn at the usual time for the re-election of the leader.

But he believed that the indications from Sir Marcus Fox, the 1922 Committee chairman, that he would refuse to countenance any possibility of bringing forward a contest to clear the air, and Mr Major's almost certain refusal to go along with such a move, would discourage many MPs from putting their names to a "round robin" over the next few days in the knowledge that it would inevitably be leaked.

Other ministers and MPs, however, have indicated that they believe the disillusionment will be so strong after the elections that many MPs will attempt to seek the backing of their constituency associations to support a challenge against Mr Major.

Mr Major and Cabinet heavyweights are prepared to come out fighting on Friday and over the weekend against any suggestions that he should be toppled. The leading right and left-wingers in the Cabinet are preparing to issue strong statements of support for the Prime Minister's leadership.

Tory MPs are braced for a period of unrelenting electoral gloom. With the local elections behind them the next big test will be the parliamentary election at Perth and Kinross, which the Government announced yesterday would be held on May 25. The Conservatives seem certain to lose the seat to the Scottish Nationalists, who are runaway favourites, reducing the Government's majority to 11. The contest was caused by the death in February of Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, who had a majority of 2,094 over the SNP at the last general election.

SNP challenge, page 9



Fox: against challenge

PM flies to Belfast to reassure Unionists

John Major will try to reassure Unionists on the future of Northern Ireland today in a series of meetings with business and community leaders in the Province. The Prime Minister was due to fly to Belfast last night for his first visit to Northern Ireland since launching the Anglo-Irish framework document in February.

His visit comes after Sinn Féin and the Government agreed to hold their first round of ministerial talks in Belfast next Wednesday. Despite government claims, Martin McGuinness, who will lead the Sinn Féin delegation, said that no agenda had been agreed for the talks. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, was banned by the Speaker from launching his book, *Free Ireland: Towards a Lasting Peace*, at a conference in Westminster.

Pickets uprooted

Another 18 tree-top motorway protesters were arrested last night as bulldozers cut through the wooded Stanworth valley near Blackburn, Lancashire, in the battle to clear a path for the £80 million M65 extension. Andrew Wilson, the Under-Sheriff of Lancashire, said more than 50 protesters had fought "tooth and nail".

Calves charge

A man whose firm flies calves to the Continent was charged with affray and bailed to appear before Rugby magistrates in June. Chris Barrett-Jolley, 48, of Frankton, Warwickshire, was held by police on Sunday after allegedly firing an air rifle at an animal rights protester. There had been many demonstrations outside his house.

Rent arrears

Local authorities in Scotland are owed over £28 million in rent arrears from council tenants for last year. Five councils have arrears levels of more than ten per cent, according to the first Scottish council performance tables published yesterday by the Accounts Commission, the independent body that audits local authority accounts.

Actor's gun folly

The comedian Rik Mayall, 37, admitted that he had behaved "like a total prat" when he pointed a replica gun at a couple in a London street on March 18. He was given a formal warning and freed by police yesterday. The couple he had confronted had run to two policemen who called for help before arresting Mayall.

Driven to drive

More than two in three households now have cars and almost a quarter have more than one vehicle, according to figures released by the British Road Federation. Three in five people of driving age hold a licence, the average person makes 21 journeys a week and the average household spends £43.23 a week on transport.

Second city first

Birmingham brushed off its image of urban grime yesterday by being named Britain's cleanest city, beating Westminster into second place. The judges of the competition, sponsored by the British Cleaning Council, said: "Even the fountains - often a slimy mess neglected by cleaners but noticed by visitors - were sparkling."

DNA taken from crime suspects in mass dawn raids

By Edward Gorman

POLICE forces across southern England and Wales launched their biggest offensive against burglars yesterday in an operation involving 5,000 officers who made more than 900 arrests.

The 1,500 dawn raids on homes and vehicles and surveillance on the road and rail network in 22 force areas were accompanied, for the first time, by DNA samples being taken from suspects charged or reported for burglary. These will help to build a national DNA database and will be compared with evidence recovered at the scenes of unsolved burglaries and other offences.

Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said officers had recovered "everything from firearms to garden gnomes" in the raids from Devon and Cornwall in the west to Norfolk in the east.

Among forces taking part were Wiltshire where 150 officers made 12 arrests and recovered £8,000 worth of suspected stolen goods, Sussex where 189 officers carried out searches at more than 80 addresses and arrested 37 people, and Dorset where 320

officers executed 65 search warrants. Material recovered included large amounts of computer and electronics equipment. Senior officers said they expected a large proportion of the 911 people arrested to be charged, cautioned or released on bail pending further inquiries.

Sir Paul said the aim was to demonstrate to the burglar that he could not escape the law. "The combination of these co-ordinated raids and the use of DNA samples means there is literally no hiding place for the burglar," he told a press conference at New Scotland Yard.

Sir Paul denied that the operation was just a publicity stunt. "What we have the opportunity to do in these co-ordinated raids," he said, "is actually to freeze the action across the whole of southern England and Wales, to see who's committing burglary, who they are working with, what property they have got in their possession and who they are selling it to."

He said the multi-force approach had helped officers to link finds in one part of the country with missing property

from another. About £75,000 worth of goods stolen from Kent had been recovered in Devon and Cornwall. Several hundred thousand pounds worth of property seized in London had been traced to other parts of the country.

Until last April DNA profiling had been restricted to serious sexual offences and murder. But under the new Criminal Justice Act, it is available for other offences including burglary.

In London the raids came under the auspices of Operation Bumblebee which has helped to reduce residential burglaries by more than 17 per cent between 1993 and 1994.

A new weapon in the three-year campaign unveiled yesterday is the Bumblebee Imaging System (BIS) designed to help police to trace the owners of the thousands of pounds worth of stolen property recovered every year.

Police hope to encourage the public to take photographs of valuable items which, in the event of a burglary, can be handed in for comparison with a new computerised photographic database of stolen property.



Christina Menzies

Parents of murdered girl lobby No 10

By Richard Ford

THE parents of a teenage girl murdered on a British military base in Germany met John Major yesterday in their campaign for an official inquiry into the killing.

Staff Sergeant John Menzies and his wife Christine, whose daughter Christina died in June 1993, want an investigation into the policing and prosecution of the case.

A serving British corporal, named in the House of Commons as Darren Fisher, 24, was acquitted at a court martial last year. Mr and



Christine and John Menzies want an official inquiry

Mrs Menzies' Labour MP, George Galloway, told the Commons in March that Corporal Fisher, now believed to be back in Britain, escaped conviction because of bungling by military police and Army prosecutors.

Mr and Mrs Menzies, of Kilmisde, are also seeking radical changes to what they describe as the "discredited" courts martial system. Mrs Menzies said last night: "The court martial was very unsatisfactory. They do not have juries and he was tried by a panel of five Army officers. There were other problems too, and the whole thing

seemed very unjust. "We want an inquiry to be carried out by the civil police here or the Ministry of Defence police, or any other agency that the Prime Minister sees fit. The Ministry of Defence has been carrying out an investigation into the inquiry by the Royal Military Police, but we have heard nothing."

John Major promised to investigate the couple's complaints after meeting them for 20 minutes. Mr Galloway said the family left 10 Downing Street with a "spring in their step" and it was because of Mr Major's attitude.

Church cash cut

Continued from page 1
pay a further £2,400 a year, or 18 per cent of the stipend, into a contributory pensions fund.

The pension changes were agreed in draft form on Friday at a meeting of the 43 diocesan boards of finance and will be presented to the General Synod at York in July. They would be phased in over ten years.

According to the draft paper, "the current arrangements for meeting the overall costs of ministry are not sustainable". The paper says that "the base of financial support for the church's ministry must be widened". It sets out "a major change in the financing of clergy pensions which we believe is in the longer-term interest of serving clergy and parishes".

In annual figures to be published next month, the Church Commissioners, who manage the church's assets, are shown to have maintained their asset base at £2.4 billion, after a rise the previous year from £2.1 billion.

Last year pensions cost £74 million compared with £69 million the year before, while income from stocks, shares and property fell from £148 million to £145 million. The commissioners' spokes-

man said that the security of existing pensions was not an issue. The new pensions fund would be set up in 1998 at the earliest; its management will be a matter for the archbishops' commission which is examining church organisation. In the meantime, the latest figures show a big increase in giving by the laity. In 1992, the latest year for which figures are available, direct giving to churches rose by 4 per cent above the rate of inflation. Church members have increased their weekly donations from £2.72 a week to £2.94.

The commissioners' spokesman conceded that some dioceses would be less able than others to meet the increased demands for payments. "What is crucial is that there are transitional provisions which means some dioceses will be sheltered from the impact of having to pay contributions," she said. "We will have to continue to make more income available than we should be doing to help dioceses who cannot contribute. At the moment, the commissioners are over-distributing. They are squeezing too much out of their assets. Gilt-stripping is part of it."

Asda spies gap in net book deal with cut-price le Carré

By Matthew Horsman

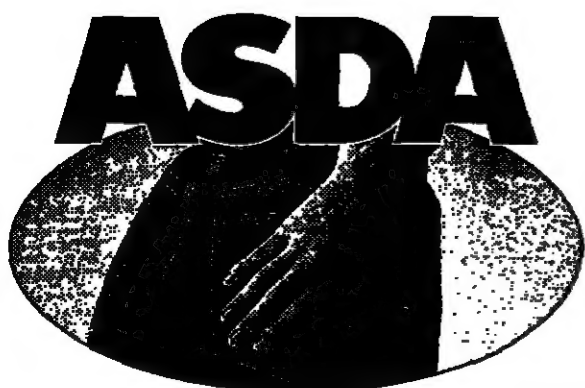
Asda, the supermarket chain, is to sell John le Carré's new book, *Our Game*, for \$8.49, half the publisher's list price, at 203 stores across the country from today.

The move is the latest threat to the net book agreement.

THE INDEPENDENT

MONDAY 1 MAY 1995

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POCKET THE DIFFERENCE

Surprise £36m bid for Channel 5

Continued from page 1
quality requirements. The ITC will also need to be satisfied that the licence holder has a satisfactory plan for returning videos in about four million homes, expected to pick up interference from Channel 5, which will be available in 70 per cent of homes from January 1997.

Katherine Pelly, media analyst at Kleinwort Benson, said she was "surprised" by the size of UK TV's bid given that the experience of the ITV companies was that the companies that bid the highest have had financial problems. "At least the ITV companies have a captive audience, but Channel 5 will have to compete against established broadcasters for both audiences and advertisers. The BSkyB bid is the most realistic."

BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, parent company of The Times, and the European arm of The

News Corporation. The chairman and chief executive of News Corp is Rupert Murdoch.

Greg Dyke, who led a rival bid for the licence from Channel 5 Broadcasting, a consortium involving Pearson, owner of the *Financial Times* and Thames Television, described UKTV's bid as "impossible". He said: "You would never make a return. It is an extremely high bid. We could not have bid that on the basis of our business plan."

Mr Dyke, who is chairman and chief executive of Pearson TV, said it was an "amazing coincidence" that his group had bid exactly the same as Virgin TV with £22,002,000 million. His consortium is in partnership with Lord Hollick's M&I Group, which runs the ITV companies Meridian and Anglia.

Robert Devereux, chairman of Virgin TV, said: "This is clearly an unexpected outcome

... The business plan behind our bid is extremely rigorous and we are totally confident of its detail."

A spokesman for New Century Television, insisted that the £2 million bid was serious. "We have to assume that the ITC expects us to carry out all the promises in the application. Given that we have planned in a 'Rolls-Royce' video returning plan, costing £120 million, and an innovative programme schedule, we believe that £2 million is what the licence is worth."

Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, who warned last week that awarding the licence to a company associated with Mr Murdoch would have "enormous and damaging consequences" for the UK, said he was delighted that the consortium involving BSkyB was the lowest bidder.

UK TV's chairman John Whitney, who is a former chairman of the Independent

Broadcasting Authority and of Capital Radio, said: "This is a very determined group of experienced broadcasters and they have worked hard to perfect their application."

Graham Allen, the Shadow Minister for Media, said that the wide disparity in the bids confirmed that the system of bidding for the licence was flawed.

Four rivals, page 6
BSkyB profits, page 27

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Secret files reveal truth about Nazi agent who posed as harmless eccentric

'Dotty Dorothy' supplied secrets to Third Reich

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

DOROTHY O'GRADY convinced the world that she had been the victim of an extraordinary miscarriage of justice when she was jailed in 1940 for espionage. Secret documents in the files of the Crown Prosecution Service have now revealed that she was no innocent Isle of Wight landlady, the "Dotty Dorothy" that she presented, but a dangerous Nazi agent.

Dorothy O'Grady was sentenced in 1940 to hang for her treachery in support of the Third Reich. The sentence was commuted to 15 years, on a legal technicality, and she was released after seven years.

She would tell the countless visitors who came to her guesthouse, Osborne Villas in Sandown, of her story and how she faced the judge as he

placed the square of black silk on his head to pronounce the death sentence.

In the 1980s there were newspaper articles about "the spy who never was" and only last year on BBC Radio 4 Maureen Lipman played O'Grady as an eccentric, bored landlady who duped the authorities into believing she was a spy to brighten up her life.

The Crown Prosecution Service files have not yet been released to the Public Record Office at Kew and are still officially the subject of a CPS review. But Barry Field, the Conservative MP for the Isle of Wight, who has campaigned for the release of the secret papers, was granted access to them.

Mr Field said yesterday: "I

set out to clear her name but I am staggered by the treachery she sunk to. She could have altered the direction of the war."

The secret files on O'Grady, who died in 1985, reveal not only her acts of treachery but also the alarm she caused in the highest circles.

After O'Grady had lodged an appeal against her death sentence, Sir Edward Tindal Atkinson, then Director of Public Prosecutions, wrote a confidential note to Sir Ernie Blackwell at the Home Office, urging that the death sentence be carried out. Her secret life of espionage was uncovered in 1940 at about the time Hitler was planning to invade Britain, using the Isle of Wight as a bridgehead.

According to the trial records, between August 31 and September 9, 1940, she entered prohibited areas along the coastline, six times cutting communication wires which were linked to searchlights and gun batteries.

Up to now, despite her conviction on five charges, the general belief on the island was that O'Grady was just an unconventional lady who refused to take the war seriously.

In a newspaper interview in 1981, O'Grady said of the two Black Watch soldiers who discovered her in a prohibited area: "I suppose they got the idea I was a spy because I was wearing a little swastika flag on my coat. I had a war map on my wall at home with lots of little flags, Allied and Axis, to mark the battle lines in France. I was always dropping them on the floor and when I bent down to pick one up, another must have caught in my hair."

"I found it there when I was setting out for my walk and stuck it in my lapel for safekeeping. As if spies went around with their national flags pinned to their coats!"

However, on the way to the police station, according to the



O'Grady, who died in 1985, was thought at the time to have been harmless

secret files, she tried to commit suicide taking 20 tablets of ephedrine hydrochloride.

She also had a false identity card in the name of Pamela Arland which she had used in 1918 and 1920 when convicted for forgery and stealing. During an earlier period, while living in London, she had also been convicted for prostitution which was when the authorities believed she was recruited by German intelligence.

The files show that she bribed soldiers with chocolate and cigarettes to get access to prohibited areas and noted down troop numbers, gun emplacements, barbed wire positions and camouflaged areas.

A summons was issued for her to appear in court but she went, on the run. When she was caught, pencil sketches

were found on her and at her home of fortifications and defence systems. In July 1940 one of the country's first radar stations became operational at Culver Cliff. O'Grady had pinpointed the radar positions on one of her maps with the words, "the most important in the kingdom".

MIS and Army intelligence officers were then convinced that they had a real spy on their hands. They discovered that she had a secret contact on the mainland but he was never identified. One of the intelligence officers who interrogated her is still alive but his report remains classified.

During her prison sentence she befriended a warder and insisted that her loyalties were with the Third Reich.

Mr Field said: "Far from

being a simple seaside landlady, she was a highly skilled agent who produced masterpieces of defence systems for the Third Reich. She was lucky to have escaped with her life. She played the double bluff and had clearly been turned by Germany at an early age. She played the double bluff to her grave."

Adrian Searle, an author who has researched O'Grady's life for more than 20 years, said: "I have always had an open mind about her but with this evidence, particularly the detailed maps which were clearly made by somebody trained in intelligence-gathering, the finger firmly points to the conclusion that she was a spy. It is the jigaw, finally, put in place after 54 years."

Health officials wary of explicit advice to nurses

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A TRAINING manual for nurses that invites them to explore their attitudes to practices such as cross-dressing and sado-masochism was labelled "handle with care" by the Health Department at its launch yesterday.

The manual, part of a package published by the Royal College of Nursing, is designed to help community nurses advising young people on sexual matters. But Health Department officials distanced themselves from its "explicit terminology" and said the material should be handled with care and sensitivity.

The training package is aimed at for Britain's 20,000 community nurses, who are seen as the most effective weapon in cutting the high teenage pregnancy rate. About 7,800 girls under 16 get pregnant each year and sexually transmitted diseases are at "unacceptably high levels", the RCN said.

Research has shown that young people fear the judgmental attitude of doctors and find family planning clinics difficult to get to. "The community-based nurse is increasingly being turned to as a sympathetic, understanding and well-informed source of advice," the RCN said.

The training package, called *Progressive Fertility*, seeks to help community nurses involved in sex education consider how their own attitudes to sexual matters may affect their work. Prostitution, pornography, homosexuality and

wearing rubber are among the topics covered. An RCN spokeswoman said: "This is only a three-page section in a 200-page manual. We have every confidence in our training package."

"The nurses will be asked to look at a list of sexual practices — some of them familiar — and say whether they approve of them for themselves or for young people or not at all. It is a way of finding out whether as a group they share common attitudes to sex and sexuality."

"We had a school nurse with fertility problems who was having extreme difficulty counselling young people about abortion. She went on a training course and found it helpful."

Giving the package a lukewarm welcome, Nola Ishmael, a nursing officer at the Department of Health, said advisers had "reservations" about the three-page section. The manual had not gone before ministers and the department had not been consulted on its contents, she said.

There was controversy last year over a teenage sex guide drawn up by the Health Education Authority. The then Health Minister, Dr Brian Mawhinney, ordered the guide to be pulped after describing it as "smutty".

Alison Hadley, spokeswoman for the Brook Advisory Service, which helps young people, said: "Officials are acting as if talking about sex means you are going to run out and do it."

Accused Briton faces beating before death

A BRITON accused of killing a tourist whose dismembered body was found in Singapore harbour was yesterday accused of six more charges, punishable by caning.

John Martin Scripps, 35, faces a mandatory death sentence if found guilty of killing Gerard George Lowe, 32, a South African who had been on holiday in Singapore.

Mr Scripps, who absconded from Britain after being released from jail on parole, is

also a suspect in the murders of Canadian tourists Darin Darnude and his mother Sheila Darnude in Thailand.

He was charged yesterday with possessing a 100,000-volt electrical stun device, a can of Mace, two knives and a hammer. Each charge carries a maximum penalty of three years' jail and a caning of at least six strokes. He was also charged with possession of drugs, handcuffs and thumbcuffs.

Pair admit stealing Salisbury hoard

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TWO men who uncovered a hoard of Iron Age and Bronze Age artefacts in a ploughed field yesterday admitted stealing them from the farmer whose land they were searching.

James Garriock, 42, a part-

time gardener, and Terry Rossiter, 47, unemployed, had claimed that they had Reginald Cook's permission to use metal detectors on his land, but they changed their pleas to guilty after hearing the week-long case for the prosecution at Knightsbridge Crown Court in London. The arte-

facts, known as the Salisbury hoard, are now expected to be handed to the daughter of Mr Cook, who died last year.

Garriock and Rossiter discovered the hoard, consisting mainly of miniature shields, tools, jewellery and ornaments, between January 1 and July 1 1985. They sold some of it shortly afterwards, but 20 Iron Age decorative shields, unwittingly bought as stolen property by Lord McAlpine, the former Conservative Party treasurer, were sold on to the British Museum for £55,000.

This sparked a five-year investigation into the whereabouts of the rest of the collection by Dr Ian Stead, deputy keeper of the prehistoric Romano-British collection at the museum. In 1993 Garriock, using a false name, contacted him to try to sell the remaining pieces for £20,000.

Dr Stead had hoped to

discover the site of the find during negotiations but when he reached a stalemate, he called in police, who arrested the defendants.

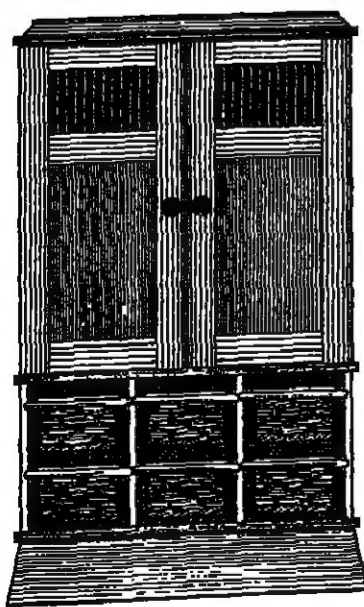
Garriock and Rossiter, both from Salisbury, will be sentenced on June 9 after the judge has considered reports. They were released on bail.

A third defendant, John Cummings, a coins and antiques dealer from Grantham, Lincolnshire, was found not guilty of dishonestly receiving stolen Bronze and Iron Age artefacts, and discharged on the direction of Judge Horder, QC. Mr Cummings, the court was told, bought the hoard from his co-defendants for £10,000 and sold it on.

Dr Stead said the museum would still like to keep possession of the hoard even if it meant buying the shields it purchased from Lord McAlpine a second time.

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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Fighting feminist talk

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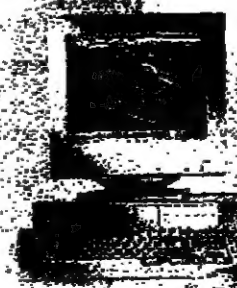
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Spoonful of dessert killed European banker

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A TOP bank worker who was allergic to nuts died after eating a spoonful of ice-cream containing walnuts at a business lunch, an inquest was told yesterday.

Katrina Farrell-Gisse, a Frenchwoman who worked for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, went into a coma after lunching with a director of the bank and died two days later.

The inquest at Southwark was told that she saw a delicious-looking dessert served at the next table and ordered one, but realised it contained nuts after eating just one spoonful. Mme Farrell-Gisse, 37, an adviser to the bank's secretary-general, was not carrying the emergency adrenaline kit she normally kept to combat an attack.

Dr Ian Hill, a pathologist, said death was caused by lack of oxygen to the brain due to a profound allergic reaction to nuts. The coroner, Sir Montague Levine, recorded a verdict of accidental death on Mme Farrell-Gisse, of London.

An allergy to nuts affects about 1 per cent of the population and causes up to five deaths a year. Dr Michael Tettelenborn, of the British Society for Allergy and Environmental Medicine, said: "It seems to be becoming increasingly common."

Up to a quarter of lettuces may breach safety levels for fungicides

Fruit and vegetables tainted with chemicals

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SOME popular fruits and vegetables, including up to a quarter of lettuces, are contaminated with hazardous chemicals that breach government safety limits, official figures have shown.

The findings come in the wake of advice from the Ministry of Agriculture that carrots should be topped and peeled before eating. Government scientists have found pesticide levels in the skins that are up to 25 times higher than rules permit. This may cause severe stomach upsets and other illness.

The long-term effects of pesticides, even at low levels, have been linked with a whole host of health effects including increased risks of cancer, and damage to the reproductive and nervous systems.

Peter Beaumont of the Pesticide Trust, a charity that monitors agricultural chemi-

cals in Britain, said yesterday that topping and peeling would not solve the problem. "Phorate, one of the chemicals detected, is systemic which means that residues can be found through the root," he said.

Angela Browning, the food minister, said: "Regular monitoring of carrots has shown that residues are generally below the permitted maximum. Recent research has, however, shown that levels can vary greatly between individual carrots even from the same row. This can lead to a reduction in the safety margins for consumers that the advisory committee usually considers desirable."

The latest tests, by ministry scientists, show that a third of the fresh fruit and vegetables sold in Britain contain pesticide residues. A small, but significant amount, have con-



Browning: monitoring

centrations that exceed warning levels or contain chemicals that are now banned for health and environmental reasons.

Alistair Hay, reader in chemical pathology at the University of Leeds, said the Advisory Committee on Pesti-

cides, the independent scientific body that advises the Ministry of Agriculture, had built big safety margins into setting safety limits, known as maximum residue levels. But Dr Hay said: "The fact is if you set a residue limit it should not be exceeded and farmers and growers need to be advised of this."

Mancozeb and Zineb, fungicides found on lettuces, are classed as probable carcinogens by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Another of the chemicals detected is Vinclozolin, which was banned in 1991.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said: "There is no need for anyone to be alarmed about this. The warning applies only to carrots and other vegetables are not affected. We have always advocated eating plenty of fruit and vegetables, and if they are eaten raw they should be washed thoroughly."



Advice is carrots should be washed and peeled

Food grown nature's way carries high premium for shoppers

THE COST OF EATING ORGANIC			
	Conventional	Organic	Price difference
Cauliflower	30p (kg)	1.80p (kg)	+500%
Peas	20p (kg)	70p (kg)	+250%
Broccoli	27p (kg)	90p (kg)	+229%
Mini cucumber	30p (each)	50p (each)	+67%
Tomatoes	121p (kg)	329p (kg)	+171%
Onions	80p (kg)	110p (kg)	+38%
Apples	130p (kg)	200p (kg)	+54%
Pears	110p (kg)	190p (kg)	+73%

THOSE who want to eat fruit and vegetables untouched by pesticides can buy organically grown produce, but they will pay a high price. Food from organic farms is likely to be 25 to 170 per cent more costly than the conventionally grown variety because of lower yields per acre (Michael Hornsby writes).

There are about 300 registered organic farmers in Britain, cultivating 80,000 acres, which is barely 0.2 per cent of all agricultural acreage. The most optimistic

estimates put total annual sales of organic food at about £200 million, of which 70 per cent is imported.

Teresa Wickham, Safeway's director of corporate affairs, estimates that fewer than 2 per cent of customers regularly buy organic produce. "More people would buy organic food if it were cheaper and more widely available," she said.

Patrick Holden, chairman of British Organic Farmers, said that organic growers could produce at a more competi-

tive price if they had more financial help from the Government. "At the moment aid to organic farmers amounts to no more than £1 million, a drop in the ocean of farm subsidy," he said.

The British Nutrition Foundation said there was no clear evidence that organically grown food was safer. "Whatever marginal health advantages organic food may have, they are vastly outweighed by the importance of eating much more fruit and vegetables of all kinds."

Quarter of holiday insurance claims fraudulent

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

A QUARTER of all holiday insurance claims are fraudulent, according to the Association of British Insurers. Mark Boleat, director-general of the association, said yesterday that insurance companies were uniting to try to beat "systematic fraud" which was pushing up premiums.

"Most people are not dishonest, but there are a sufficient number who make such outrageous claims that everyone else suffers," he said. "Travel insurance lends itself to fraud and we have discovered that some people make the same claim from three or four insurance companies. They always have the most expensive clothes and video cameras in their luggage which is mysteriously 'lost', for example, and although only 10 per cent of travellers ever make a claim of any kind, a quarter of those are fraudulent." Insurance companies have agreed to exchange information about false claims to catch persistent offenders.

Some of the genuine claims which are made may appear unlikely. The association cited the case of a sunbather who claimed for injuries she sustained on a beach after being hit by a parasailer mistaking her for a lifeguard. One couple wanted a video camera to replace that stolen by Gibraltar apes.

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BOWDON, 'Oaklands Grange', Eyebrook Road.
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Welcome Centre open every day 9.30am-5.00pm. Tel: 0161 929 3495.

HALE BARNS, 'The Spinney', Brooks Drive.
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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Folic acid in flour reduces risk of a disabled baby

Dr Thomas Stuttford

WATCHING the disabled spinning past the finishing line in the London Marathon or listening to patients with spina bifida discussing their lives gives the wrong impression. Most babies born with spina bifida have other neurological defects which will interfere with their mental and physical development.

For this reason, a neural tube defect such as spina bifida is frequently given as the reason for termination of pregnancy. Since improved ultrasound has enabled diagnoses to be made with greater certainty, the number of babies born with these defects has dropped from 3,000 to 150 a year.

The figures do credit to the skill of the radiologists, but the destruction of the foetus, often in a longed-for pregnancy, is a crude way of achieving this result. The Americans, as far as the better off are concerned, are achieving a similar success rate by marketing two, rather expensive, brands of breakfast cereal which have been strengthened with folic acid.

American women who are planning to have a baby now choose their morning cereals with care. Only a tiny amount of extra folic acid, 0.4mg daily, is needed to remove the risk of spina bifida and similar deformities. The value of folic acid has been recognised for some years but it has not proved possible to persuade British women who are intending to con-

ceive to take a daily tablet - when they know they are pregnant it is already too late. The nervous system is laid down in the first six weeks after fertilisation. Their last period may only be ten days to a fortnight overdue by the time that the dice is cast.

Surveys in Leeds, and at Queen Charlotte's, London, have shown that fewer than 10 per cent of British women are, despite publicity, taking extra folic acid before conception. Nicholas Wald, professor of environmental and preventive medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, would like Britain to follow the American lead but also to improve on it. He doesn't think that pricey cereals are the answer but would like to see our flour fortified with folic acid. Flour in Britain is already strengthened, with calcium, iron and some vitamins of the B group.

Professor Wald argues that adding another vitamin, folic acid, to the others, wouldn't be creating a precedent and would make additional folic acid available to everybody.

Prof Wald said: "Some other means of increasing folic acid intake is needed. Flour is the answer."

Large doses of folic acid may make epileptic control more difficult and might confuse the diagnosis in some forms of anaemia but otherwise, in so far as is known, they are free of harmful side-effects.

Man falls to death posing for picture

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CLIMBER fell to his death while posing for an action picture at the top of Mount Snowdon. Andrew Parry, 21, plunged 300ft after a ledge he was holding on to came away. Friends climbed down to his body, but he was already dead.

Mr Parry, from Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, was with seven friends on a walking weekend. His girlfriend, Ruth Williams, was waiting for him at a base camp when the accident happened.

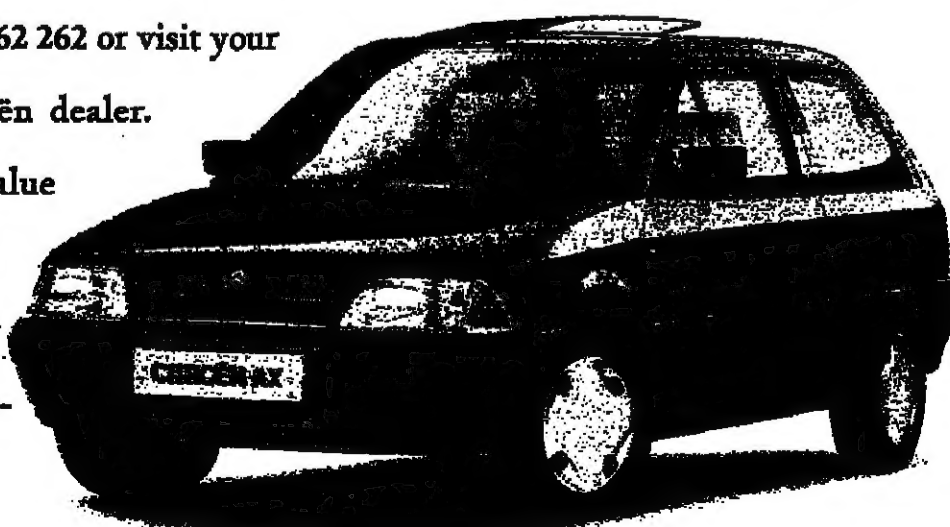
Boris Worrall, 24, of Walsall, West Midlands, said: "We went over the ridge at Crib Goch and we were taking a breather. I heard one of the girls in the group

scream 'Andy'. I turned round and saw him plunging down the side of the mountain. He landed a long way down."

"I ran down with another of the climbers in the party. I got to the body and it was fairly obvious he was dead. At first I hoped he had just been knocked unconscious but when I got close I could see he had major head wounds."

Mr Worrall said that Mr Parry had been posing for a picture when he fell: "He got hold of a ledge and was leaning off the edge when it came away and he fell backwards. It was a one in a million accident. It appears he was messing about as people do and the rock came away."

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Familiar names from the world of television seek licence to Britain's final terrestrial station

Four rivals compete for Channel 5 franchise

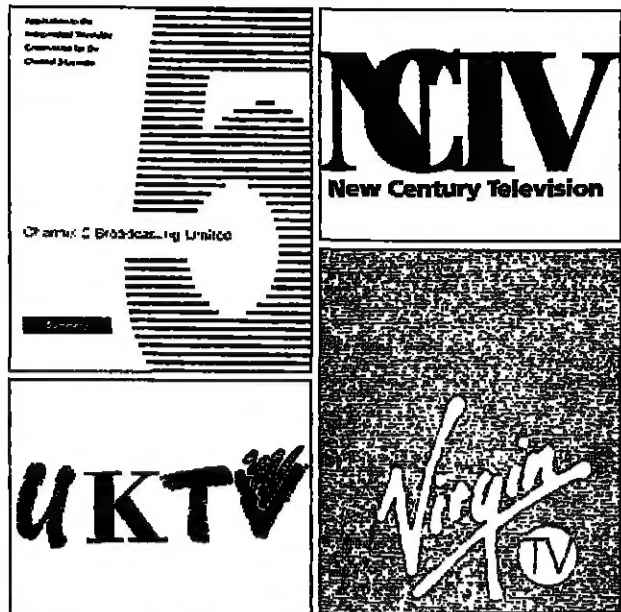
By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

FOUR consortiums submitted bids yesterday for Channel 5, the first new terrestrial station to be launched in Britain since the creation of Channel 4 13 years ago.

SelectTV, one of Britain's independent producers and the makers of *Birds of a Feather*, *Lovejoy* and *Goodnight Sweetheart* is a member of the consortium called UKTV, which put in the highest bid of £36 million.

Alan McKeown, 48, chief executive of SelectTV and husband of the actress Tracey Ullman, said he believed the quality of his consortium's programmes would attract viewers. "There has, in the past few years, been a significant change in viewing habits, a shift from station to programme loyalty. Audiences watch programmes, not channels. I am convinced that our successful brand of popular programming will attract large audiences to Channel 5, as it does for the BBC, ITV and Channel 4."

SelectTV was a founder shareholder of Meridian, the ITV company for the South East of England, and is planning to launch a cable entertainment channel in Britain on June 1. Mr McKeown, whose company owns 20 per cent of UKTV, has teamed up with a group of broadcasters from Canada, Australia, Scan-



Logos of the four consortiums bidding for the 10-year franchise to run Channel 5 television

dinavia and the Benelux countries. The channel would offer "mass appeal British drama and comedy", a spokeswoman said.

An unexpected contender was Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, whose Really Useful Group has teamed up with a consortium called New Century Television, including BSkyB, the satellite television company, 40 per cent owned by News International, parent company of *The Times*. Rupert Murdoch is chairman and

chief executive of The News Corporation, which owns News International.

The consortium, which delivered its £2 million application to the Independent Television Commission in central London ten minutes before the 12 noon deadline, also includes Granada Group, makers of the ITV soap opera *Coronation Street*, Polygram, the entertainment group responsible for the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, the Swedish media company

Kinnevik, the American investment company Goldman Sachs, the stockbrokers Hoare Govett and the cable company TCI International.

First through the ITC's door at 8.30am yesterday was a lawyer acting for Virgin TV, headed by the entrepreneur Richard Branson, with a bid worth £22,002,000. Robert Devereux, chairman of the Virgin Entertainment Group and of Virgin TV, said that the company had planned to invest £250 million on developing Channel 5, including £100 million on the first year's programmes, which will include 3,000 hours of new shows. "This will not be a channel of repeats. Cheap and cheerful programming will not attract a large audience and, if we don't get audiences we will die," he said.

Programmes planned include *Network*, a mid-morning magazine show based around a computer database, which will allow viewers to interact through e-mail and fax, and a mid-afternoon show *Live at Two*, aimed at women.

Associated Newspapers, publisher of the *Daily Mail*, owns the London-based cable television station, Channel One, which has a 5 per cent holding in Virgin TV. White Rose, an investment company controlled by Richard Hanwell, chairman of the Yorkshire-based electronics company Farnell, and Viscount Lewisham, holds 15 per



Lord Hollick, left, Greg Dyke, Dominic Shorthouse and Donnach O'Driscoll deliver the Channel 5 Holdings bid

cent. HTV, the ITV broadcaster for Wales, owns 20 per cent; Philips, the electronic company, holds 15 per cent; the Electra investment trust has 5 per cent; and Paramount Television 20 per cent.

Greg Dyke, the colourful former head of London Weekend Television, delivered the £22,002,000 bid from Channel 5 Holdings — exactly the same amount bid by Virgin — at about 11am with the Labour peer Lord Hollick, whose company IMAI controls the Mer-

idian and Anglia ITV companies. As with Virgin TV, Channel 5 Holdings is promising to show the same types of programme at the same time every day.

Its plans include 14 hours of children's programming a week and a "citizen's advice" programme, *Help*, which will form part of its two-hour mid-afternoon PM programme aimed largely at women. Channel 5's hourly news bulletins and peak time extended news programme

will be produced in association with ITN.

Drama programmes include a new five-days-a-week soap opera. There will also be new series, such as *Days of Justice*, in which viewers decide the outcome of the plot, and *Jericho Lane*, about trainee police officers.

Mr Dyke is head of Pearson Television, part of the Pearson media group, which owns of the *Financial Times* and the independent television production company Thames

Television. Frank Barlow, chief executive of Pearson plc, is Chairman of Channel 5 Broadcasting. Other partners are CLT, which operates television and radio companies throughout Europe, and Warburg, Pincus Ventures, a private American investment group.

The bidders will be told in the autumn who has won the ten-year franchise.

Battle for control, page 1
Media, page 23

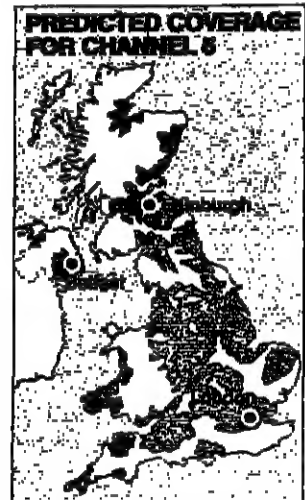
Regulator demands high quality programming

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

CHANNEL 5 will be Britain's third commercial terrestrial station, after Channel 4 and ITV. The Independent Television Commission, which regulates and licences commercial stations, has stipulated that it must be on air by January 1, 1997.

The channel is required by law to show news, current affairs, children's and religious programming of a high quality. The ITC has also recommended that it should include arts, documentary and feature material, drama, education, entertainment and sport. Analysts expect programme costs in the first year to be between £80 and £120 million.

It will not be a dustbin for repeats from other channels. In the first five years of operation at least 40 per cent of programming must be originally produced for the station, excluding shows that go out in the "graveyard"



period of between 1am and 6am. After the sixth year, original programming will have to rise to 65 per cent. The channel should initially be available in around 70 per cent, or 16.4 million, of Britain's 22.5 million homes which have televisions. Large parts of Wales, the South East of

England, East Anglia, the West country and Scotland will not be able to receive the service, although it is possible that the licence holder could "fill in" by broadcasting the service on cable and satellite.

Most viewers will be able to receive the service through their normal rooftop aerial, although in some areas extra aerials will be needed.

An estimated 4.1 million households are expected to suffer some interference from Channel 5 on their video recorders or to have poor Channel 5 reception. The ITC believes that video recorders more than four years old are most likely to be affected. Licence holders will have to pay an estimated £100 million to have the machines returned.

The Independent Television Commission will award the licence to the highest bidder, providing it is satisfied with the bidder's business plan and programming and that there are no "exceptional circumstances".

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Health and animal groups outraged by decision to give first grants to projects relieving poverty

Charities demand £57m to compensate for lottery

By TIM JONES

CHARITIES demanded compensation from the Government yesterday to make up for the estimated £57 million loss they claim they will suffer as a result of the National Lottery.

The call for compensation came as the National Lottery Charities Board announced that its first grant-giving programme of £150 million was designed chiefly to improve the quality of life of the poor. Health care, medical research and animal welfare charities said it meant they would be excluded even from applying for the first grants, which will be announced in October.

Susan Osborne of the Cancer Research Fund said: "We are outraged by this decision which means we have been left out in the cold."

Stuart Etherington, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, said there was an urgent need to review the effects of the lottery on charities "before the adverse impact



Blatch: facing protest

gets greater". He said: "We are concerned that charities are losing out overall as a consequence of the lottery. Our research shows an estimated net loss of £57 million in the first year and the Government should refund charitable donation income which has been lost as a result of it."

Mr Etherington said the NCVO, which represented 640

charities and voluntary organisations, welcomed the fact that charities would be able to apply for lottery funds but was concerned some might not be able to get in their applications by the August 1 deadline. The concerns will be put forcibly to Baroness Blatch, a junior Home Office minister, at a meeting next week.

David Sieff, chairman of the Lottery Charities Board, said: "The aim of the first programme is to improve the quality of life of people who are disadvantaged by poverty. We will concentrate on initiatives based in low-income communities. Applications which fall outside the priority cause will only receive a grant in exceptional circumstances during the first period."

The decision to concentrate on poverty was taken after wide consultation and in the hope it would also benefit charities working with children and the disabled. The consultation, which involved 7,943 organisations, showed that animal welfare and mis-

sionary or religious activities emerged as low-priority groups. Sylvia Darley of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children said: "I am very concerned we may not qualify for a grant. Cancer does not differentiate between rich and poor. We have 1,200 new cases every year."

A spokesman for the Blue Cross animal welfare organisation said it Christmas appeal, launched only weeks after the start of the lottery, was £18,000 down last year. He said: "For many old people their animals are the reason for living. Since November we have been seeking a meeting with the board's chief executive but have been ignored."

It also emerged yesterday that nearly £5 million in lottery money may have been spent on administrative start-up costs before charities receive a penny. Officials estimate that when the first grants are made in October up to £4.8 million may have been spent on offices, computer systems and staff.



Sieff: "We want to improve quality of life for those disadvantaged by poverty"

Camelot 'breeding addicts'

By RICHARD DUCE

THE National Lottery has become a dangerous addiction to some punters who are being driven into debt by the lure of instant wealth, Gamblers Anonymous warned yesterday.

The group said that scores of people had phoned its counselling service and is calling for posters to be displayed at ticket sale points offering advice to people worried about debt.

A spokesman said: "The typical case is the housewife using her house-keeping to buy tickets and falling short with her bills. We are not against the lottery. We want people to be aware there is a fine line between gambling for fun and something which becomes a compulsion."

A spokesman for Camelot, the National Lottery organiser, said: "We recognise the concern and will continue to monitor the issue but at this stage we don't believe there is a widespread problem."

Gamblers Anonymous can be contacted on 0171 384 3040.

Tory peer's rival scratch card offers £75,000 jackpot

By JON ASHWORTH

A NEW scratch card game with a top prize of £75,000 goes on sale today, the day after Camelot launched a second instant-win game as an apparent spoiler.

The Scratch-a-Win cards, which, like Camelot's game cards, cost £1, will pay 25p in the pound to charity and be sold at up to 50,000 shops, supermarkets and petrol stations. Players choose from four games, one of which, Cash Roulette, offers the chance of winning the maximum prize. The other three have jackpots of £50,000.

Sales of Camelot's Instant Cash have reached £200 million after six weeks, but the National Lottery organiser fears sales could be hit. It is thought to have doubled the jackpot to £50,000 when it learnt of the rival game earlier this year.

Its new Instant Cash game has a top prize of £25,000 but slightly better odds than the Instant game, with one in five cards a winner. Odds of winning the Scratch-a-Win jackpot are a million to one, compared with one in 2.6 million for Camelot.

Scratch-a-Win has been launched by Inter Lotto (UK) after fears that small charities were losing out because

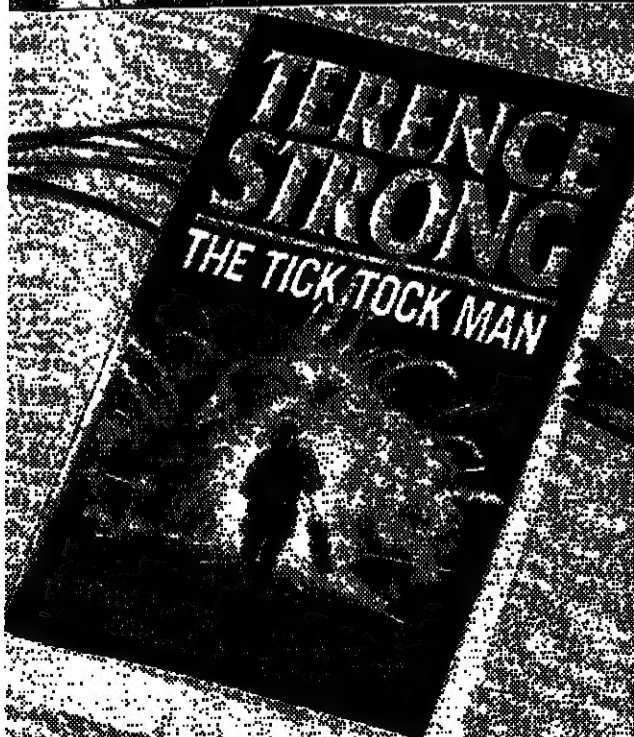
of the National Lottery. Lord Mancroft, the Tory peer who is backing the venture, won charities the right to sell up to £5 million in lottery tickets a year by forcing an amendment to the National Lotteries Act 1993. This allows Scratch-a-Win to compete directly with Camelot without answering to Oflot. Activities will be monitored by the Gaming Board.

Sir David Trippier, the former Environment Minister, and Lord Strathairn are non-executive directors. Four charities involved with drug and alcohol addiction will benefit initially. Others, including Esther Rantzen's ChildLine, may be added later.

Lord Mancroft also stands to share in the profits from the new venture. He is an 8 per cent shareholder in Inter Lotto (UK), whose American parent has launched similar games in Hungary, Russia and Guatemala. Peter Galdi, a Hungarian-born entrepreneur based in New York, is the majority shareholder, with 43 per cent. The cards are supplied by CGI, an American company in which GTECH, part of the Camelot consortium, has a minority stake.

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Local elections: Times writers report from three Tory bastions on the brink of collapse

True blue town ready for spectacular change of hue

ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

THE Natural Law Party started it when they came yodging down to Tunbridge Wells last week. They were closely followed by John Prescott, sporting a red carnation, Paddy Ashdown, just out of his flak jacket, a Swiss camera crew and a group of curious Japanese MPs.

Everyone, it seems, wants to witness the demise of one of the last great bastions of Toryism in tomorrow's council elections.

Royal Tunbridge Wells in Kent has been blue for as long as the Georgian spa town has enticed the middle classes away from the grime of London. Shop assistants wear white gloves, retired colonels' wives give up their bus seats to retired admirals' wives and the MP is the ultra-Conservative Sir Patrick Mayhew.

But for the past few years Tory councillors have been clinging on by the skin of their teeth. They have 23 seats to the

Liberal Democrats' 20 and Labour's three — and the unthinkable is about to happen.

A random survey found people of the town choking on their tea and scones in the elegant colonnaded cafés in the Pantiles at the mere mention of possible Post Office privatisation, education cuts, VAT on fuel and even John Major. Their local grievances are just as acute.

Marcus Fraser, a retired funeral director, summed it up: "I've had enough taxes and excuses. They need a dose of opposition."

Caroline Spalding, a former Tory voter and nursery school teacher, is appalled by the sleaze headlines. "They are all after more sex and money," she said. "Sir Winston Churchill's grandson being given

our lottery money was the last straw for me."

The Tory agent, Steven Owen, whose job should have been a doddle, is exasperated by them all. "They may be polite but they are real whingers. They blame us for whatever is in the paper that day, be it NHS cuts or three-in-a-bed MPs."

"They are in a blind panic and can't see what the Tories have achieved. They say things like shouldn't we give the Lib Dems a chance. This is not a game of bowls, it will mean higher spending. But I am optimistic that on polling day everyone will regain their sanity."

Ian Carvell, 26, a Labour candidate, disagrees. He believes that Tunbridge Wells may have changed for good.

"Tunbridge Wells has never had that much money, just high morals," he said. "Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells is appalled that people have to

sell the *Big Issue* here and their children aren't getting jobs."

The leader of the Liberal Democrats, Jake Nicholson, believes that not only will his party win seats, it could take absolute control of the borough council. "The Tories have lost the battle here," he said.

Patrick Thomson, is the celebrity the Japanese most want to see. A Tory for 30 years and a councillor for Sissinghurst and Frittenden, he has now turned independent. "I couldn't bear to be associated with the Tories any more," he said.

"Everytime a fat-cat privatised industry boss gets a rise I cringe and the Lib Dems friter away our money on the council. The Liberals and Tories will probably share the seats here now and the socialists will hold the balance. John Major should be thoroughly ashamed."



The colonnaded cafés of Tunbridge Wells, where the voters recoil at many of the Government's policies

Troubles spread to Major's back yard

BY ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR, who will move swiftly to stamp his authority on the Conservative Party after the expected rout in tomorrow's local elections, is now facing growing troubles in his own back yard.

Senior Tories in Huntingdon, for decades rock-solid Tory territory, warned the Prime Minister at the weekend to be prepared for losses in his own district council. Doves of traditional Tory supporters have told the party's canvassers they will stay at home in protest at the Government's performance.

Derek Holley, the leader of Huntingdonshire District Council for the past 11 years, said it was the toughest election campaign so far. "It is

HUNTINGDON

worse than during the poll tax. We have uncovered a definite element of stay-at-home supporters. Their attitude is not a reflection of the way we run the council but it is because of the perception of sleaze and disunity in the parliamentary party."

Mr Holley, 53, who was brought into Huntingdon politics by John Major after his adoption meeting as MP in 1979, was relieved that the party high command had not sent in ministers to bang the drum for Tory councillors. "They never come here which helps us particularly this time as it enables us to concentrate on local issues," he said. Mr Holley, a finance director of a local company, discussed the campaign with the Prime Minister at the weekend after he was paged while he out riding his horse.

The council is made up of 34 Tories, 12 Liberal Democrats, four Labour members and one Independent. In 1988 the Liberal Democrats had only one councillor. They expect to make further gains tomorrow.

In Huntingdon, where few Tory posters could be seen, local people were uncompromising in their opposition. Rachel Hill, who lives just outside the town, was planning to vote tactically. She said: "I'm voting on national issues. Some people vote Tory because it makes them proud to have the Prime Minister as their MP but the novelty is fading." Pointing to her 20-month-old son Henry, she said: "John Major talks about nursery education for all but there is only one state nursery around here and single mothers have priority. His deeds don't match his words."

Lib Dems expect hung council

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

DESPITE the growing disillusionment of traditional Tory voters, few believe that the Liberal Democrats will win outright control of Chichester district council at tomorrow's local elections. A hung council is the most likely outcome.

However, the prospect of the Tories losing a majority of 14 in one of their most secure heartlands is a mark of how unpopular the Government has become. Support for the Tories has always been strong in the Sussex cathedral city. Anthony Nelson, junior Treasury Minister, was one of the few Tory MPs to increase his majority at the last election. The district council has been Tory since it was created in 1973.

Yet there has always been a solid Liberal Democrat minority. The party has held the city council since 1983 and runs the hung West Sussex county council, which the Tories lost in 1993. The Liberal Democrats hold 14 seats on the district council, compared

CHICHESTER

with the Tories' 32, with three independents and one seat vacant.

The Tories' problems in Chichester are compounded by the similarity between their brand of "shire Toryism", focusing more on social concerns than free-market principles, and Liberal Democrat policies. This makes it easier for voters to shift their support. Many Tories hold their seats by slender margins.

Captain Stephen Stuart, 68, Tory chairman of the district council for the past three years, admits he has struggled to keep the campaign focused on local issues, but the Liberal Democrats still have some way to go. Council tax rates are low and the Tories have run a successful housing campaign, building 750 houses at a cost of £11 million over the past four years.

The Liberal Democrats have also been unsettled by the death last month of Peter Weston, their popular group leader. Labour is also putting up more candidates than before, which could split the anti-Government vote.

Colin Tupper, a Liberal Democrat city, district and county councillor, says he is "quietly confident" of a hung council, not outright Liberal Democrat control. "Many are convinced that the Government has run out of ideas and run out of steam," he said.

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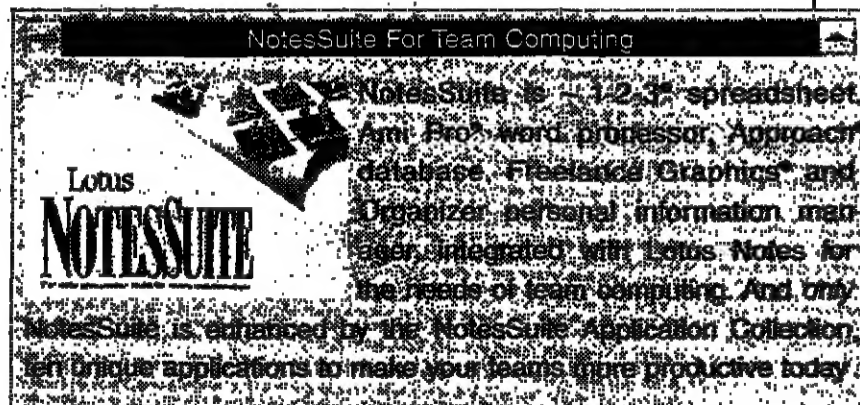


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ENEMY COLLAPSE IN NORTH GERMANY

DRIVE TOWARDS KIEL CANAL

BRITISH AND RUSSIANS LINK ON BALTIC COAST

HAMBURG OCCUPIED BY SECOND ARMY

The enemy has collapsed in northern Germany and prisoners are flocking in as in the final stage of the Tunisian campaign. The British 6th Airborne Division have linked with Russian forces at Wismar, on the Baltic coast.

Last night British tanks were driving north in great strength towards the Kiel Canal and the Danish frontier.

Hamburg has surrendered and is being occupied by the British Second Army. The wireless station was yesterday operating under allied control.

The American Ninth Army has joined up with the Russians at three new places south-east and north-west of Wittenberge. Everywhere in northern Germany the enemy is being driven by the Russians into Anglo-American hands.

General Patton's forces are across the River Inn at seven points. The Germans have declared Prague a "hospital city."

CANADIANS TAKE OLDENBURG

FOUR MILES FROM EMDEN

From Our Special Correspondent
HAMBURG FRONT, MAY 3
The whole German system of defence has collapsed in the north. The capture of Lübeck and Wismar, on the Baltic coast, by British forces yesterday has been followed by the surrender of Hamburg to the British and of Oldenburg to the Canadians to-day.

Traveling on the Baltic, also fell to-day to a column of the British 11th Armoured Division advancing northward after handing over Lübeck to the care of the British 5th Infantry Division (later arrived in this theatre from Italy) while another column of the 11th has struck towards Kiel. The British 6th Airborne Division at Wismar made contact yesterday with a Russian armoured squadron which had pushed westward from Rostock.

Over on the left flank Canadian infantry came to-day to a point only four miles from Emden, while men of our Highland Division advanced 12 miles after clearing Bremerhaven, north-east of Bremen, and began to threaten the naval and submarine base of Bremerhaven.

It is calculated that General Dempsey's Second Army yesterday took at least 100,000 prisoners, but the estimate is only rough, for the situation in the north is rapidly changing. The British 6th Airborne Division at Wismar made contact yesterday with a Russian armoured squadron which had pushed westward from Rostock.

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INTO AUSTRIA THIRD ARMY'S THRUST

HITLER'S BIRTHPLACE CAPTURED

From Our Special Correspondent
RIVER INN FRONT, MAY 3
Passau, Braunau, and Wasserburg have been captured by the Third Army. All stand on the River Inn, all of which between Wasserburg and Passau is controlled by General Patton's men, who are across the river at seven points—tanks as well as infantry.

With advances up to 28 miles—and this maximum gain was made by infantry to take Wasserburg—the Third Army has reduced the pocket of Germany still unoccupied to a size smaller than most English counties, and has increased its penetration into Austria to 11 miles. Here tanks of the 11th Armoured Division are across the Rhine, a tributary of the Danube, on the road running south-east into Linz. This picturesque city was much more of a Hitler town than Braunau, his birthplace, in which he showed little interest. When they captured Braunau American tank men found that the house where Hitler was born had since been converted into a Nazi centre, and the library was still standing. No signs of mourning were in evidence, and most of the people were fully concerned with their personal survival and rehabilitation.

Infantrymen of the 8th Division advanced south-east for 25 miles to the vicinity of Holzheim, 10 miles west of Braunau and 38 miles north of Berchtesgaden. Meanwhile, advancing north-east, troops of the Third Army continued their drive into Czechoslovakia.

Up to seven miles took infantrymen of the 9th Division near Taus, 30 miles south-west of Pilsen, and advances were made by infantry of the 5th Division into Czechoslovakia from south of the Austro-German frontier. In the first 10 days of the present drive General Patton's prisoners exceed 140,000.

THIRD ARMY, MAY 3.—Linz, Austria's third city, is now within range of General Patton's artillery. Tanks are seven miles north-west of the city.—Reuter.

PRAGUE A "HOSPITAL CITY"

A German station broadcasting on the Hamburg wavelength and calling itself "Reichsstadt" said yesterday:—

"At the request of the German Minister of State for Bohemia and Moravia, Admiral Dönitz has declared Prague a hospital city. Negotiations for a political reorganization in the direction have begun. Any disturbance of the calm and orderly developments which could only lead to Bolshevik chaos will be suppressed by force of arms."

A German short-wave station said yesterday afternoon:—

"Dr. Franz, Minister of State for Bohemia and Moravia, has issued the following order of the day: 'For as the Führer is not dead, the oath of allegiance we swore to him is from now on valid for every German. We will stand at his side and obey his command. Everyone must do his duty. Long live the nation.'"

Another German broadcast said that a delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross has taken up activities in Prague. The committee will look after the welfare of prisoners of war and the wounded, in accordance with the Geneva Convention, the radio said.

The transmitter giving these announcements did not identify itself, and it is not possible to give its location.—Reuter.

GERMAN TALK OF STAND IN BOHEMIA

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
STOCKHOLM, MAY 3

Reports received here suggest that Dönitz considers himself of a government, and that the idea behind his appointment is to preserve as much order as possible in a collapsing Reich. German troops, it is added, will endeavour to surrender to the British and Americans rather than the Russians, and so maintain for posterity the idea that they are implacable enemies of the Soviet Union.

German spokesmen even to-day continue the pretence that German armies, though separated, will fight on indomitably, and hint that a prolonged stand is possible, and, indeed, intended. Bohemian Front, much report says that Vlasov's "army" of renegade Russians and Ukrainians is stationed in Bohemia, and determined, with the Germans, to defend this gateway into western Europe.

FINAL SCENES IN BERLIN

PRISONERS MARCH OUT

RAGE AND HYSTERIA

In an order of the day addressed to General Ermenko and Colonel-General Sandomirskii Stalin announced last night:—

Troops of the 4th Ukrainian command, continuing their offensive, to-day occupied the town of Cassan (Tschern), an important centre of communication and a strong position in the German defences in Czechoslovakia.

Cassan is on the Czechoslovak-Polish border, 15 miles south-east of Moravia. It is on the main railway from Prague.

The High Command report last night stated that north-west of Berlin troops of the First White Russian command occupied a number of towns, including Stettin, and emerged on to the Elbe south-east of Wittenburg, where they linked up with American troops.

In Berlin on Wednesday 20,000 more prisoners were taken, while 10,700 wounded were sent to the rear. The total of prisoners taken in Berlin during the day was 100,700. Among them were the chief of the State air force squadron, Lieutenant-General Bauer, Police General Harnburg, and the chief of Goebbels's secretariat, Seidl.

East of Bruno Osterpolitz was captured, and Czechoslovak guerrillas captured the commander of the 16th German Tank Division, Major-General Müller.

From Our Own Correspondent
MOSCOW, MAY 3

All through last night, in the glare of searchlights, and long into the morning columns of German prisoners streamed from the centre of conquered Berlin towards camps on the periphery, and for the first time in 11 days Berliners slept without Russian shells falling on some part of the capital.

Most of the men who, on the orders of General of Artillery Weidling, ceased fire yesterday afternoon are described as bewildered by the ordeal of shelling and bombing through which they had passed. Shaggy-headed, bearded, and grimy, they emerged, wearing white armlets, from bunkers, drainpipes, tube stations, and other places. Some of them threw their weapons away with angry, silent faces; others were dragging and stacked their rifles where they were told; many laughed hysterically and could not stop laughing as they trailed through the shattered city. There were boys of 15 and men of 60 among them—Volkssturm conscripts condemned to prisoner-of-war camps by the inescapable obstinacy of Germany's leaders.

The Russians are reported to have made a great effort to look worthy of the occasion, and citizens and soldiers alike, by the contrast which the freshly shaved men, with medals gleaming, the brick dust shaken out of their clothes, and their high leather boots polished, made with the defeated enemy. In their hour of triumph their discipline was beyond reproach, one correspondent observed.

The end came when tanks and infantrymen, supported by field guns and rocket-launchers, moved in from the east and south. Simultaneously resistance cracked near the Friedrichs Heil park. The circumstances in which the prisoners were reported captured in the Soviet official announcement were taken have not yet been revealed.

The battle for Berlin lasted 17 days.

NO COMMUNIQUE FROM GERMANS

FIRST TIME IN THE WAR

For the first time since the start of the war the German high command communiqué had not been broadcast yesterday to the outside world up to 10 p.m. Normally it is broadcast by the German wireless early in the afternoon.

To-day the Oslo wireless, one of the few stations still in German hands, announced that it expected to give the communiqué at 9.30 p.m. in its German language bulletin, but when the time came the Oslo wireless stated: "As was expected the German high command communiqué has not yet arrived because of technical reasons."

No German station has yet announced the surrender of the German forces in Italy and west Austria.—Reuter.

SPEER ON DUTY OF GERMANS

RECONSTRUCTION UNDER ALLIES

ORDERS TO BE OBEYED

Speer, the German Minister of Armaments and Production, in a broadcast to the German people over the German-controlled Danish radio last night, stated: "The direction of our lives is no longer in our hands." He admitted that the German nation was defeated, and said:—

"Never before has a cultured people been smitten as grievously as the German people over the German-controlled Danish radio last night, stated: 'The direction of our lives is no longer in our hands.' He admitted that the German nation was defeated, and said:—

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FALL OF TRIESTE

SURRENDER TO NEW ZEALANDERS

An official report from headquarters of the 15th Army Group in Italy yesterday stated:—

Fighting has ceased in northern Italy west of the Isonzo river with the unconditional surrender of all enemy troops under command of German Army Group "C." There remain only the multitudinous administrative details of assembly and disarming the scattered and disorganised remnants of the once proud Wehrmacht.

In south-east Italy the New Zealand Division has occupied the important port of Trieste. General Freyberg accepted the surrender of the German garrison to the allied forces at 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday. Elements of the New Zealand Division have also occupied Gorizia.

The total number of German prisoners taken by the 15th Army Group before the cessation of hostilities was in excess of 230,000.

ITALIANS AND TRIESTE

ANXIETY AT YUGOSLAV CLAIMS

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT
ROME, MAY 3

Italy's exultation at the surrender of the German forces in Italy is tempered by anxiety at the presence of Yugoslav troops at Trieste and elsewhere within her eastern borders. In a Field-Marshal congratulatory message to the Italian Government, Marshal Badoglio refers to "Italy liberated on the Isonzo," beyond which river "other Italians are anxiously awaiting the same liberation."

Satisfaction that Trieste has been liberated by allied troops was expressed by the Council of Ministers this afternoon. A request was made that the allied "provisional military administration" of Venezia Giulia should guarantee neutrality and impartiality, and to assure free cooperation by the local population. "All territorial questions regarding the eastern frontier," it was added, "must in no way be prejudicial to the peace declared and until elected Parliaments of the two countries can reach a proper decision."

The Council also expressed the certainty that the bonds forged between the allies and Italy by their common war effort would one day receive a more suitable name than co-belligerency.

Some have taken the lead in agitating for Trieste to remain in Italian hands, and this morning 1,000 of them demonstrated outside the Ministry of the Interior. Afterwards they clashed with Communists, who are accused of being lukewarm about Trieste. The policy of the Communist party towards Yugoslav claims has never been announced and a statement by Signor Togliatti is likely to be issued.

RETURN OF S. AFRICAN TROOPS

CAPETOWN, May 3.—Men of the 6th South African Armoured Division now in Italy are to return home as soon as transport is available, the South African Defence Department announced to-day.

According to an official statement the allies will not require the division for garrison duties, and it has been agreed that South African troops will be repatriated.

Some South African units will continue to be used for maintaining lines of communication through the Mediterranean to the Far East, and for other duties. For these purposes 12 South African Air Force squadrons and some 40 engineer, signal, transport, workshop, and security units will be retained in the north during the second phase of the war.—Reuter.

AMERICAN CASUALTIES

WASHINGTON, MAY 3
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Secretary of War, Mr. Stimson, stated at his press conference to-day that the Italian campaign cost the United States 109,163 casualties, of whom 21,577 were killed, 77,248 wounded, and 10,338 missing.

LIBERATION OF ITALY

MR. CHURCHILL'S MESSAGE TO SIGNOR BONOMI

The Prime Minister has sent the following message to Signor Bonomi, the Italian Prime Minister:—

On the occasion of the surrender of the German armed forces in Italy, I send you, Excellency, on behalf of his Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, a message of warm congratulations on the final liberation of Italian territory from our common enemy, and in particular the part played by the Italian regular forces and partisans behind the lines.

The knowledge that they have contributed to this unprecedented victory and have materially accelerated the cleansing of their country's soil will, I trust, be a source of strength to the Italian people in the no less strenuous days which lie ahead. It is a matter for great satisfaction to his Majesty's Government, as it will undoubtedly be to your Excellency's Government, that the day of the German armies in north Italy should have been accomplished with so little human suffering and with relatively little damage to the material resources of that part of your country.

I extend to your Excellency the great work of reconstruction which now faces the Italian Government and people.

I look forward to the time, which cannot be long delayed, when Italy, whose forces have cooperated in war with those of the United Nations, will work with the United Nations in the peaceful and fruitful labours of peace. (Signed) WINSTON S. CHURCHILL.

LIBERATED RUSSIAN PRISONERS

AMERICAN DENIAL OF SOVIET CHARGES

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT
WASHINGTON, MAY 3

In a formal statement to-day the State Department declared that the Russian charges that the United States had violated the Yalta Agreement concerning the repatriation of Soviet prisoners of war were unfounded.

The statement revealed that 4,300 German prisoners of war brought to the United States claimed Soviet citizenship after their arrival here. As soon as their citizenship was established they were segregated from other German prisoners, and then returned to Russia "as rapidly as possible" made available by the Soviet authorities. All but eight of these prisoners who claimed Soviet citizenship had been repatriated and these eight had been put in United States hospitals at the request of Soviet officials.

QUEEN WILHELMINA IN HOLLAND

The Netherlands Government Information Bureau announced that Queen Wilhelmina and Prince Juliana yesterday arrived in the liberated area.

This does not constitute the Queen's final departure from Great Britain. Prince Juliana's permanent return to the Netherlands is now the Queen's intention to spend some time in the liberated area. In keeping with the circumstances the Queen will continue her simple way of living.

BRITISH IN RANGOON

RAPID ADVANCE

JAPANESE FORCES TRAPPED

The following special announcement was issued by South-East Asia Command yesterday:—"Troops of allied land forces entered Rangoon this morning."

ADVANCED H.Q. BURMA, May 3.—The fate of the Japanese still resisting in west Burma has been sealed with the entry to-day of allied land forces into Rangoon and with the capture of Promé, 178 miles from Rangoon.

A few stragglers may filter through the allied line running down the Mandalay-Rangoon railway, but most of the Japanese troops in the Irrawaddy valley and the Arakan coastal area are cut off.

Allied patrols drove 44 miles south from Allampra to enter Promé and cut the escape route of the Japanese in the Arakan area. Heavy bombers and fighter-bombers cleared a way for the troops who landed from the sea and air on the banks of the Rangoon river south-east of the city. As these troops pushed up from the south-east, other Fourteenth Army units continued their advance down the Rangoon river to the north. Latest reports put them between 30 and 40 miles away.

As the pieces closed on Rangoon other allied troops captured Pyawbwe, in the foothills east-west of the Irrawaddy and 19 miles south of Mabin.—Reuter.



Help to China Campaign

WASHINGTON, May 3.—The capture of Rangoon will aid the war in China, said Mr. Henry Stimson, United States Secretary for War to-night.

"With Rangoon in allied hands," he said, "a shipping centre of great importance will be re-opened. Communications through the valleys of Burma will be in our control and the old and new routes for supplies to China will be available."—Reuter.

THE KING'S MESSAGE

The King has sent the following message to Lord Louis Mountbatten:—"I send you and all in South-East Asia Command my hearty congratulations on the brilliant success achieved by all arms and services in the capture of Rangoon."

LEAD TO TRANSPORT STRIKERS

RESUMPTION ADVISED

After a day during which the number of London road transport men and women employed by the London Passenger Transport Board refusing duty rose by about 2,000 to 6,750, there were greater hopes last night that the strikers would resume work shortly.

The improved outlook resulted from a long meeting of representatives of the union men's section of the Transport Workers' Union, who passed the following resolution unanimously:—

"This division committee, being of the opinion that the strike cannot be ended until a resumption of work, recommends that it is desired to resume work, and that the union men's section of the Transport Workers' Union, who passed the following resolution unanimously:—

"There was again severe congestion during the day on some of the Underground Railway lines serving areas affected by the dislocation of road services, and some travellers to work were considerably delayed. In other areas the alternative means of transport were the surface railways, but many people had long distances to walk and were fortunate if they secured a lift on the way by private car or lorry. On the evening journey home their plight was made far worse by the heavy rain."

The ostensible reason for the strike is entirely groundless. The strikers complained that the summer schedules could not be properly worked because of an insufficiency of vehicles and of labour—particularly labour. Lord Ashfield has assured the men that the additional labour is available. "The board have," he said, "with the assistance of the Government departments concerned, already secured a sufficient supply of labour to cover the summer schedules. There will be sufficient vehicles also."

The services affected by yesterday's extension of the strike were:—

Trolley buses—454, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904

Commemoration of shattered city's surrender emphasises friendship which pre-dated Nazi era

Prince honours Allied and German dead in Hamburg



Prince of Wales: tribute

FROM ROGER BOYES IN HAMBURG

THE Prince of Wales yesterday celebrated the 50th anniversary of the surrender of Hamburg with the former British officer who led the first tank column into the shattered port city.

Lieutenant Eric Smallwood crossed the northern bridge over the River Elbe on the morning of May 3, 1945, at the head of four Cromwell tanks.

"The city was supposed to have surrendered. But the German commandant and the mayor could not guarantee that the SS would not shoot," the former officer, now 71, told reporters before a Hamburg reception in honour of the Prince.

"We didn't see any white flags. On the bridges and at crossroads German policemen were standing in full uniform and carrying weapons. They showed us the way, but we preferred to rely on our own street maps. Above all the British

forces were nervous that the streets might have been mined or booby-trapped.

The Hamburg surrender, or liberation, is regarded with some pride in Germany. Hitler was dead, Berlin had fallen to the Red Army, but still deserters or "defeatists" were being shot by the SS in streets throughout Germany.

However, Major General Alwin Woltz, Hamburg's commander, had decided even in early April that the port city could and should not be defended; had this been leaked to Hitler, Maj Gen Woltz would undoubtedly have been shot but it was plain to the general that the devastating Allied bombing raids of July 1943 had left citizens in no mood for a final armed showdown. Some 900,000 of them were already homeless.

The Prince of Wales will pay tribute today not only to the Allied

dead but also to ordinary people buried in mass graves in the city cemetery, developing the theme chosen in Dresden in February by the Duke of Kent who acknowledged that Germans, too, had suffered in the war.

The Prince, who will be delivering at least part of his speech in German, has been underlining the long links that connect Britain with Hamburg. This reflects the broader British approach to Germany during the sensitive 50th anniversary year: the atrocities are not being forgotten but visiting British politicians are emphasising that Anglo-German relations go back centuries and are not exclusively defined by the Second World War.

In Hamburg's case this means celebrating not only the way in which it surrendered without a fight—a considerable relief to tank men such as Mr Smallwood who knew the dangers of street fighting for armoured vehicles—but also

the ancient tea and tobacco trade, the fashionable Anglo-German Club and the garden parties in which locals dress up in "the English manner".

No other German city is marking the end of the war in quite such a pro-British style. In Berlin, leftist groups are planning to use the ceremonies on May 8 to demonstrate against Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, John Major and other visiting leaders. Judging by demonstrations in Berlin during the past two nights, these protests could be violent.

At yesterday's reception in the British consulate building—formerly SS headquarters—the Prince also met Otto von Laun, an 80-year-old retired lawyer who crossed British lines with two other Germans to try to secure immunity for a rubber factory that had been converted into a field hospital.

But this limited peace mission quickly became the beginning of

serious surrender negotiations. For three days the details of the capitulation were worked out with Herr von Laun acting as a middleman.

"I was happy that we got so far," Herr von Laun recalled yesterday, "because all of us who had been through the worst of the bomb attacks on Hamburg knew that there was no choice." As he crossed the lines with a white flag, he was fired on by British troops but yesterday seemed to bear no ill will. "Fortunately none of us was hit. Later I complained to the English about the shots but in the front line they did not know about our initiative, so it was understandable."

Hamburg, because of its long tradition of maritime trade, has always been quite close to Britain. The Prince was given a warm welcome after attending an ecumenical service in St Michael's Church, partly destroyed by Allied

bombers. British flags fluttered from official buildings and the city's 110,000 civil servants have been given a free day today so that they can listen to the Prince of Wales's speech.

The local press highlighted the cases of British soldiers who had helped citizens in distress. Singled out for praise was Corporal Dai Evans of the 53rd Welsh Division, who rushed a heavily pregnant German woman to hospital. He was praised for his humanity by the nun in charge of the Hamburg hospital.

According to Corporal Evans's testimony, his platoon commander reacted with some robust scepticism about his good deed. "He said, 'What a funny world! For years we've been trying to beat the bastards and now we're breaking our backs to save them. I just hope that the little chap we just helped to bring to the world won't be fighting our children in 20 years' time.'"

Veterans say Churchill sale reflects a nation of greed

BY JOHN YOUNG

GOVERNMENT efforts to justify using £12.25 million of National Lottery funds to buy Winston Churchill's papers for the nation have failed to convince soldiers, sailors and airmen who served in the Second World War.

Thirty veterans were gathered yesterday at Churchill's former home, Chartwell in Kent, as guests of the National Trust. Without exception, those questioned deplored the sale and felt it reflected the values of an age from which they felt increasingly estranged.

John Humphrey, 73, who served in the RAF Regiment in the Middle East and Italy, recalled that when he was a baker's boy before the war he often saw Churchill bricking up at the bottom of the hill below the house, with a whisky and soda beside him. "I certainly don't think we

gliders at RAF Brize Norton, was disappointed that her home town, Tonbridge in Kent, seemed to be ignoring the fiftieth anniversary of VE-Day. "The younger people say it's a waste of time and want to forget it," she said. "But they seem to forget that we lost our youth, not that I regret it." On the sale of Churchill's papers, she said: "They are ours by right and should have been given to the country."

Ms Skerrett said she could not approve of lottery money being given to individuals when the National Health Service was in such an impoverished state. "Surely some lottery money should be given to hospitals."

Len Waterhouse, who was taken prisoner after Dunkirk and spent five years in Poland, said that when he first heard of plans to mark the fiftieth anniversary he thought it would be a waste of money that could have been used to help disabled people. "But when I thought about it, I saw the need to educate the younger generations so that they know what the war was all about."

He pointed out that many ordinary people had given their wartime papers, medals and other mementoes to the Imperial War Museum without payment. "Lottery money could be spent in so many better ways," he said. "Look at all the charities: cancer research, spina bifida and so on. Their needs are endless. I'm sure I speak for a great many other people."

Bert Norgate, 77, a former battalion quartermaster-sergeant in the Royal Artillery, who took part in the D-Day landings and won the Military Medal, said: "By all means keep Churchill's memoirs as a national asset, but I don't think lottery money should have been used. Nor do I feel the Churchill family should have benefited financially. Surely they could have given them to the nation."

The Government was congratulated, however, on the decision to request two minutes' silence on May 8 in memory of the war dead. Fred Cull, 75, a veteran of North Africa and Italy, said: "We are the lucky ones who came home but a lot of our friends didn't. Young people have no idea what their parents and grandparents went through."

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Members of the Bond Street Association watch Princess Margaret and Admiral William Crowe Jr unveil Lawrence Holofcener's statue

Berlin: Dantesque chaos to Cold War symbol

■ Roger Boyes examines how the capital of the Third Reich was rapidly transformed into the West's capitalist showcase and the East's Communist fortress

BERLIN, 50 years ago, was a landscape out of Goya and Dante; a mess of rubble and corpses, fires blazing as gas pipes exploded, the roar and rattle of combat still punctuating the day.

The Polish novelist Andrzej Szczypiorski recalls standing in his concentration camp uniform in the ruins of the Berlin district of Köpenick after being liberated from Sachsenhausen. "My clothing showed where I had just come from and, for the few people whom I saw in Köpenick, I seemed to be the Avenging Angel—like the angel of destruction that once visited the Egypt of the Pharaohs."

It was already clear to many Germans that the end of the Third Reich meant the end of

the old Berlin. The city was the metropolitan centre of Prussia, which no longer existed, and the Thousand Year Reich which was living out its last minutes. Within weeks and months Berlin had been split in two—the Soviet sector becoming the germ of East Berlin, the future capital of the Communist German Democratic Republic; the British, American and the French sectors forming the strange truncated semi-city of West Berlin.

The first sign of improvised

life under occupation quickly emerged. The physical hub of the city black market was based in Tiergarten Park, one of the final battlefields.

There you could buy clothing, food, petrol and trade in cigarettes. British soldiers with their cigarette rations were rich men. The less visible black market was in penicillin and Persilscheine certificates clearing one of a Nazi past.

Berlin came to represent the dual morality of the Allies: intelligence teams working for the Control Commission

started the process of denazification, while others sought out Germans who could be used in the coming confrontation with the Russians.

Since 1943 there had been serious thinking in Britain and America about the looming postwar stand-off with Stalin; it was acknowledged that the Allied aim had not only been to defeat Hitler but also to ensure that the future Germany faced West and not East.

The shady fictional Berlin characters from the novels of Len Deighton and John Le Carré really existed.

They were Germans who understood that the defeat of the Nazis did not put an end to their market value. They became the couriers and foot soldiers of the Cold War; their

often dubious past was forgotten in the rush to put together intelligence networks focused on the Soviet headquarters in Karlshorst, in east Berlin, or Potsdam.

Three years of open war with the Soviet Union had equipped a large number of Germans with Russian language skills and the intellectual armoury of Cold Warriors.

As Berlin was rebuilt, Hitler's capital city gave way to a capitalist showcase in the West and a Communist fortress in the East.

Hitler's Olympic stadium, built to celebrate the physical supremacy of the Aryan race, was converted into British military headquarters and became the forward base of its anti-Soviet intelligence operations in central Europe.

Some buildings, especially in the East, still bore the patches where Nazi eagles had once been affixed but time and weather rubbed away the traces.

The ruins of Hitler's bunker were left unmarked and were barely noticed by Berliners.

In September 1949 the American Secretary of State, James Byrnes, declared that the Allied military role in Western Germany and Berlin had changed from one of occupation to that of protecting powers.

But Berliners had noticed the shift long before. The Soviet blockade and the airlift of 1948 had plainly set out the new priorities: a few years after the war, the Germans (our Germans) had to be defended from the Russians.

Old soldiers meet again for taste of southern comfort

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THOUSANDS of Allied war veterans are expected to converge on the South of England this week to celebrate the end of the war in Europe.

Hotels throughout London and on the South Coast are confident of filling every room for the Bank Holiday and around the Paddington and Mayfair areas of London are predicting a busy weekend. The Southern Tourist Board is reporting a "sharp increase" in demand for hotels and guest houses over the

which they were stationed during the war.

The hotel chain Forte says its Imperial Forte Grand hotel in Torquay has been booked up for months by veterans returning to their former war base. Its Harrogate hotel, which is putting on a special VE-Day dinner dance, is also full.

Many of the hotels overlooking Hyde Park and around the Paddington and Mayfair areas of London are predicting a busy weekend. The Southern Tourist Board is reporting a "sharp increase" in demand for hotels and guest houses over the

three-day period. Leslie Burrow, manager of the Park Court Hotel in Bayswater, London, said he expected the hotel to be full. "We already have a high occupancy rate for that weekend and a large number of those who have booked are coming for the celebrations."

The Holiday Inn, Mayfair, and the Dorchester said they expected to be full. "We have been very busy taking bookings for that weekend for the past month," a spokeswoman for the Dorchester said. Forte's London hotels, including Brown's, which is offering a special "wartime" menu of

rabbit, baked apple and prune pancakes throughout May, are also fully booked.

The Southern Tourist Board said it was difficult to judge how many overseas travellers would be arriving because, unlike during last year's D-Day commemorations, many were coming independently.

A spokeswoman said there had been strong interest, both from home and overseas, in the many street parties and celebrations scheduled for the week. "We have seen a sharp increase in demand for bookings by telephone and we are receiving 50

inquiries a day about VE-Day events round the country. Our office in New York has handled hundreds of telephone inquiries."

A number of tours for the week organised by American companies are following the route of last year's D-Day commemorations through London, southern England, the coastal towns of Weymouth, Portsmouth and Southampton, and then across the Channel to Normandy. One operator, Boston-based Galaxy Tours, said it had a party of 700 Americans travelling to London for the celebrations.

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Tough stance reverses Cold War policy

Britain to curb influx of Cubans to Caymans

By MICHAEL BINYON, AND DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

BRITAIN announced yesterday that any Cuban boat people arriving in the Cayman Islands would be forcibly returned to Cuba if it was found that they were not political refugees.

The tough line was decided because of the continuing influx of boat people and the exhaustion of patience, money and resources in the British dependent territory. Since last summer 1,184 Cubans have arrived on the islands, which have a population of only 30,000. Britain has had to send police to the Caymans, and there is rising tension between the islanders and the new arrivals.

Britain has never sent anybody back to Cuba, but has obtained an assurance in Havana that none of those returned would be prosecuted. The Clinton Administration announced in a change of policy yesterday that it will allow thousands of Cubans detained in camps at the Guantanamo Bay naval base to enter the United States, but in future, no more Cubans who try to leave the island by sea will be allowed in.

The almost unprecedented joint agreement with Havana, ends three decades of special treatment for

Cubans who were picked up at sea and brought to American shores. Under a Cold War policy, Cubans automatically were allowed to claim political asylum.

The announcement exposed deep divisions in Miami's large and influential Cuban community, which welcomed the news that refugees at Guantanamo will be granted special entry permits. But overall, exiles' leaders declared that the agreement marked a "black day" in their struggle against Fidel Castro, the Cuban leader.

"It is shameful, grotesque and immoral," said Lincoln Diaz Balart, one of two Cuban-Americans representing Miami in Congress. "How can this country send Cubans fleeing the tyranny of Castro back into the arms of the dictator?" He added that the announcement by Britain smelt of a conspiracy between Washington, London and Cuba's secret police.

Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, who made the announcement at the White House, said that the policy was motivated by humanitarian concerns to discourage more Cubans from risking their lives by trying to reach

Florida in home-made rafts and unseaworthy boats. But some observers speculated that Washington may also be responding to rising national concern over the burden of illegal immigration on public services. After the success last year of Proposition 187 in California, which calls for denying services to undocumented immigrants, similar proposals are being discussed in Florida.

Last summer nearly 35,000 Cubans fled the island by sea after Cuba lifted border controls. The exodus was halted after Washington began intercepting them and transferring them to makeshift camps at the US naval station of Guantanamo Bay on Cuba's southeast coast.

Cuba has given a commitment that those seeking visas to leave the island will suffer no reprisals and that US consular officials will be allowed to monitor the repatriation of Cuban rafters at local ports. Experts say the policy is likely to cut the flow of rafters almost completely, since it is virtually impossible for boats to reach Florida without being detected by the US Coast Guard vessels that patrol the Florida Straits.



Jean-Marie Le Pen yesterday: "Who profits from this crime?"

Moroccan death poisons French poll campaign

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

THE murder of a young Moroccan in Paris brought an ugly note to the French presidential campaign yesterday as the two candidates blamed followers of the far Right National Front and Jean-Marie Le Pen, the movement's leader, said that the authorities were behind the killing.

While Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist contender, and Lionel Jospin, the Socialist, prepared for a television debate last night, police reported that skinhead youths had attacked Brahim Bouarram, 29, and thrown him into the Seine as a parade of 10,000 National Front supporters marched through Paris behind M Le Pen on Monday. As M Bouarram drowned, witnesses watched his killers run back into the march, they said. Three youths were detained yesterday for questioning.

The murder triggered an avalanche of condemnation from politicians and rights campaigners. They described it and the recent murder by National Front militants of an African in Marseilles as symptoms of the racist creed preached by M Le Pen, who gained fresh notoriety and power by winning 15 per cent in the first round of voting. Rights groups demanded the dissolution of M Le Pen's movement, which draws its power mainly by exploiting hostility to foreigners in France.

M Chirac called the Moroccan's death "a savage act that appears to be racist". M Jospin termed it "a new racist crime perpetrated by a group of individuals who practise violence systematically". Alain Juppé, the Foreign Minister and M Chirac's right-hand man, sent France's regrets to the Moroccan Government and apologised to its ambassador. M Juppé said on tele-

vision: "When you sow hatred, you never know what you will harvest."

M Le Pen struck out in virulent form, depicting the murder as an officially inspired attempt to blacken his movement and part of a witch-hunt against him. "Who profits from the crime?" he asked at a press conference.

He added that the dead man was "the victim of a provocation aimed at hiding our political message in a highly strategic period between the two rounds of the presidential election". The attackers were not involved in the march, M Le Pen said, recalling that his security men always banned anyone dressed in the skinhead style from his gatherings. He asked why the hundreds of police on duty on Monday had failed to prevent the murder.

His claims compounded the revulsion of the left-leaning media, which have been lamenting over the past week that 4.6 million citizens voted for a man whose ideology and rhetoric hark back to the Fascist movements of the wartime period. They also noted the echoes of a day in 1961 when the Paris police threw dozens of Arab demonstrators into the Seine. An unknown number drowned.

Le Monde recalled that 553 racial attacks were reported in the four years to 1994. "France is getting used to this, just as it is getting used to the National Front marches in the heart of Paris and its posters promising 'With Le Pen, three million immigrants will be sent home,'" it said.

In the conservative Le Figaro, however, Alain Peyrefitte, a Gaullist elder statesman, said M Le Pen's voters were "the product of the Mitterrand era and its economic and social failures".

Mandela attacked on threat to KwaZulu

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA of South Africa was widely criticised yesterday for his threat to withdraw funding from the KwaZulu/Natal provincial legislature and accused of running a dictatorship.

To use taxpayers' money to punish those who spearhead any opposition to the [African National Congress] reveals the dictatorship that is inherent in the ANC's structures and leadership," said Dr Ziba Jiyane, Secretary-General of the Inkatha Freedom Party, which controls KwaZulu/Natal. He said the President was using the provincial budget as a tool to browbeat the

region. Mr Mandela said at a rally near Durban at the weekend that he would withdraw funding from the provincial legislature if Inkatha continued to threaten to disrupt his Government. The President was later forced to flee in an armoured vehicle after shots were fired and fighting broke out between rival political factions.

The liberal Democratic Party said his statement was disturbing. The radical Pan-Africanist Congress accused him of exceeding "democratic norms", and the National Party warned him not to "resort to blackmail politics".

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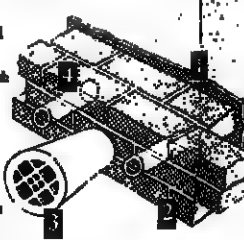
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FBI arrests two more Oklahoma suspects

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

DOZENS of FBI agents raided a Missouri motel at dawn yesterday and arrested two men in what appeared to be a breakthrough in the hunt for the Oklahoma City bombers.

On Monday evening the FBI had issued a nationwide alert for the two men and the white Ford Thunderbird with Arizona registration plates they were believed to be driving. Within hours a Missouri policeman had spotted the car outside the Kel Lake motel near the town of Carthage. The FBI surrounded the building during the night.

The two men, Gary Land and Robert Jacks, were being held as "material witnesses", which means investigators were searching for the evidence required to charge them formally with complicity in the bombing, but they clearly had close links to Timothy McVeigh, the first man charged with the bombing.

Like Mr McVeigh, they lived in cheap motels in King-

man, Arizona, in the months before the April 19 bombing. On that day, they checked into a motel in Vinita, Oklahoma, a small town 150 miles north-east of Oklahoma City. On April 20 they registered at a motel in Perry, Oklahoma, the town where Mr McVeigh had been stopped for speeding and was taken into custody barely 90 minutes after the explosion.

Later that day the two men left Perry and returned to Vinita, suggesting that they had found out where Mr McVeigh was. He was not identified as a suspect in the bombing until the following day, April 21. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that a surveillance camera had filmed the Thunderbird near the bombed Alfred Murrah Building in Oklahoma City.

The FBI would not confirm reports that Mr Land, 35, was the man in the composite sketch who has been hunted by agents for the past 11 days. Mr Jacks is thought to be in



FBI agents gather outside the home of Michael Fortier during a raid on the property in Kingman, Arizona. He fled the scene before the FBI arrived

his mid-50s, but few other details of the men were available. Employees at the motels in Kingman described them as unemployed loners who drank a lot of beer. Like Mr McVeigh, they paid their rent in cash, and left the motels saying that they were heading for Oklahoma.

The death toll in Oklahoma City rose to 146 yesterday with 20 still missing. Rescuers had, however, already brought in heavy equipment to remove rubble after abandoning hope of finding more survivors.

Five men have now been arrested on bombing charges since the Oklahoma attack. James and Terry Nichols, who are friends of Mr McVeigh, have not been accused of direct involvement in the ex-

plosion, but are being held on related bomb charges. The two brothers shared Mr McVeigh's hostility towards the Government and helped him to experiment with home-made bombs.

Investigators have now found a receipt in Terry Nichols' Kansas home for the purchase of 2,000lb of ammonium nitrate last September.

Ammonium nitrate was the fertiliser used in the bomb, and Mr McVeigh's fingerprints were reportedly found on the receipt.

Investigators also spent Monday searching part of a Kansas lake where they believe the bomb was assembled. Witnesses claim to have seen the yellow van parked by the lake two days before the

bombing, and investigators have reportedly found traces of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil there.

On Monday, the FBI also searched the trailer home of Michael Fortier, an army friend of Mr McVeigh's, and took away several bags and boxes. Mr Fortier left his home in Kingman shortly before the FBI arrived.

Rwandan troops on trial

Kigali: A Rwandan military court started to try soldiers from the Tutsi-dominated army yesterday, pledging to show that the armed forces were not above the law.

Fourteen Rwanda Patriotic Army soldiers were charged with aggravated murder and robbery. None were implicated in the massacre by government troops of thousands of Hutus in a refugee camp last month.

But the trials of more than 30,000 Hutus, who have been accused of involvement in the genocide of the Tutsi minority last year before the Rwandan Patriotic Front seized power, were put off indefinitely because of lack of resources, officials said. (Reuters)

Atomic experts cleared by FBI

Washington: An FBI review of secret documents has cleared four prominent physicists who worked on the Manhattan Project to build the first atomic bomb of spying for the Soviet Union. The claims about Robert Oppenheimer, Niels Bohr, Enrico Fermi and Leo Szilard, were made in a book.

Packer's gold safe is looted

Sydney: Police investigating the theft of £2.4 million of gold from Australia's richest man have appealed for clues. At least two people are thought to have broken into the Sydney offices of media magnate Kerry Packer's Consolidated Press Holdings, using a blowtorch to cut their way into his personal safe. (Reuters)

Panda killer gets 18 years' jail

Peking: Yan Daorong, a farmer who trapped and killed a rare giant panda for its pelt, hoping to make a big profit, has been jailed for 18 years by a court in Guangyuan. Yao skinned the panda on the spot and gave the pelt to a gang of poachers, who were arrested after trying to sell it in nearby cities. (AP)

Watergate plotter stirs new controversy

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON



Gordon Liddy hosts a programme for Talk Radio. He is accused of using rhetoric that encourages violence

EMBARRASSED Republicans abruptly cancelled plans to honour Gordon Liddy, mastermind of the Watergate break-in, after he advised Talk Radio listeners to shoot federal firearms agents in the head or groin in self-defence.

The "advice", coming after the Oklahoma bombing, led to an invitation for Mr Liddy to speak at a fundraising dinner for Talk Radio in Washington last night being withdrawn. The event was organised by the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

Mr Liddy, a man of iron discipline who served nearly five years in prison for Watergate, has been accused of using rhetoric that encourages violence. He recently acknowledged that he once drew

figures on rifle targets and named them after President and Hillary Clinton because he thought "it might improve my aim". He has told listeners that in a government raid for weapons they should aim, although only in self-defence, for the head because agents usually wear bulletproof vests. Last week he augmented his advice by saying that if a head shot did not work "then shoot to the groin area".

His remarks were seen as fomenting paranoia among disaffected paramilitary groups, like those identified since the Oklahoma bombing who fear that government agents will launch Waco-style raids against them. But Mr Liddy said: "I don't feel I'm fuelling the lunatic fringe."

Nominee is under fire

Washington: Henry Foster, President Clinton's embattled nominee for Surgeon-General, attended a Senate confirmation hearing yesterday where he faced Republican attacks over the number of abortions he has performed (Ian Brodie writes).

The obstetrician and gynaecologist from Tennessee originally mentioned one, then said it was less than a dozen, and later disclosed he had been the "physician of record" for 39, plus supervisor of drug trials in which 55 pregnancies were terminated. He admitted it had been a mistake to answer reporters' questions from memory without fully checking his records. "But it was an honest mistake," he said.

Opera is sued over sexual discrimination

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

IN A new variation on an old tune, a woman is suing the New York Metropolitan Opera for discrimination on the ground that she lost her job as an assistant stage director because she is bisexual.

In a suit filed in Manhattan federal court Martha Ellen Brennan, 48, claims the opera's executive stage director, David Krauss, was biased against homosexuals and routinely gave better assignments to heterosexual men. After complaining about discrimination in 1993 she was dismissed, the suit alleges.

Ms Brennan claims she was "horribly wronged" by New York's premier opera house and sacked after seven years

of working for the company, despite an unblemished record, "because she was over 40 and not homosexual or bisexual and was a woman".

The suit alleges that senior executives at The Met "permitted numerous objectionable pictures of young males in various stages of nudity to be exhibited in the work place". Ms Brennan says she lost her job a few days after she complained about the pictures to the general director of the company, Joseph Volpe. Ms Brennan wants the job back.

"We are not going to have any comment until we have had a chance to review the case," a spokesman for the opera house said.

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Karadzic vows to regain every foot taken by Croats

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

RADOVAN KARADZIC, the Bosnian Serb leader, vowed yesterday that his forces would "defend every Serb" after Croatian attacks on separatist Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia. He also issued a veiled threat to United Nations troops.

The offensive by Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian President, against the Serbs is treacherous: it brings the dreaded wider Balkan war nearer and it indicates that Serbs and Croats are out of the control of the great powers. Worse, Russia and America show signs of becoming per-

ously estranged as they each support opposing sides more openly.

Fred Eckhard, spokesman for the UN peacekeeping force in Croatia, said the military push had been "a major blow" and had "wrecked very many months of efforts" by the UN "to restore confidence on both sides". Croatia told European Union countries, including France and Germany, that the offensive was limited but diplomats said it was clear that a line had been crossed and there was no guarantee that fighting would now stop.

Dr Karadzic said: "This

attack clearly shows that even if we didn't want to be united, our enemies keep us united since they treat us equally. That obliges us to ... regain every metre taken by the Croats." The Bosnian Serb leader said he was now free to ignore all Security Council resolutions and issued a veiled warning that he would take back weapons stored at UN weapons collections points.

The vicious circle of war in the Balkans was always likely to turn back to the central conflict between Serbs and Croats. The Muslims in Bosnia were essentially caught in the middle of the grand designs of Belgrade and Zagreb to control as much land as possible when the break-up of Yugoslavia became inevitable. Croatia would like to be rid of the Serb areas in the republic and closer to Croats in Bosnia. Serbs in Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia would like to link up and control a large swath of land stretching from Belgrade to the Adriatic.

Since neither side achieved these aims at the beginning of the Yugoslav conflict in 1991, a resumption of the unfinished Serb-Croat war was almost inevitable. It was also most likely to re-erupt in Croatia because President Tudjman has been under enormous political pressure to tackle the secessionist Serbs living in the



Death comes to the streets of Zagreb, the Croatian capital, after a retaliatory rocket strike by rebel Serbs yesterday

Krajina region. These Serbs have been providing important military and political support to the Bosnian Serbs, and are a source of constant irritation to the Croat regime. Serbs have been able to sit and wait. President Milosevic of Serbia is trying to persuade the international community

that it is doing all it can to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to sign a peace treaty, in the hope that more UN sanctions against it will be suspended. Serbs in Bosnia can also bide their time, at least until the Muslim-led Bosnian army begins its expected full-scale spring offensive, because they

already control 70 per cent of the republic.

The Croatian attack also casts doubt on repeated assurances from Zagreb that it would do everything possible to reduce tensions over the Krajina region. Croatia hopes to negotiate a potentially lucrative trade deal with the

European Union. It was against that background that President Tudjman backed off from a threat to expel UN peacekeepers and finally agreed in March to allow a reduced force to remain in place.

Simon Jenkins, page 18

Chechens thwart Yeltsin's hopes for VE-Day

FROM RICHARD BERTON IN MOSCOW

CHECHEN rebels have launched a determined counter-attack against Russian troops in the breakaway Caucasus republic in a move timed to embarrass the Kremlin before next week's VE-Day celebrations in Moscow.

According to Russian military sources, at least four Russian soldiers have been killed and 13 wounded since the offensive began on Monday in Grozny, the Chechen capital, shattering the unilateral ceasefire announced by Moscow last week.

The Russians reported that they had come under fire in Grozny in 35 separate incidents, including an attack on the military headquarters. In the bloodiest incident, a Russian troop column was ambushed on Monday night as it entered Grozny, leaving three Interior Ministry troops dead, eight wounded and three armoured personnel carriers destroyed.

The Russians have attempted to regain control by imposing a dusk to dawn curfew, but it has had little effect, partly because Russian commanders are under strict orders not to inflame the situation.

"There is sporadic Chechen fire on Russian positions," Colonel Sergei Volgin said, adding that Russian forces were ordered to return fire but not to engage them. "The Chechen rebels are trying to provoke Russian troops into violating the ceasefire."

The upsurge in violence is likely to embarrass President Yeltsin, who came under fierce international criticism for his offensive against Chechnia, estimated to have cost 25,000 lives. The Russian leader had hoped that the Caucasus would have calmed down in time for the VE-Day parade, which human rights groups have called on Western leaders to boycott. Now, however, the Chechen conflict could overshadow the Moscow ceremony on Tuesday, which is expected to attract 50 world leaders, including John Major, President Clinton, President Mitterrand of France and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

It seems clear that the Kremlin leader's offer of a unilateral ceasefire played straight into the hands of General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen rebel leader. His separatist forces, not only turned down his offer, but have decided to launch their most concerted counter-offensive since they lost Grozny two months ago.

In his latest interview from a mountain hideaway in the south of the country, the Chechen leader predicted that the world community would still come to the rescue of his besieged nation.

"For the first time in history the civilised world has subjected the aggressor to scathing criticism," General Dudayev told the *Moskovskiy Komsomol* newspaper. "The whole world has become aware of this evil and it should be treated in the same way as fascism."

Although outnumbered and worn out by four months of fighting, the skilled guerrillas will be difficult to dislodge from their positions hidden in woodland near Grozny, from where they can attack the exposed Russian forces at will. Most of Russia's combat battalions of paratroopers have been withdrawn from the area, leaving the poorly trained and ill-disciplined Interior Ministry troops to take the brunt of the fighting.

CROATIA FACTFILE

- Population — 4.7 million
- Vicious fighting broke out between Serbs and Croats in Croatia in the summer, autumn and winter of 1991. Months before the Bosnian war had even started, the world reeled from scenes of devastation in towns such as Vukovar, Osijek and Dubrovnik. A truce was signed in January 1992.
- Under pressure from Germany, Croatia gained international recognition and was admitted to the United Nations in May 1992.
- Serbs effectively control four separate zones in Croatia and the uneasy truce between Serbs and Croats in the republic has been policed by peacekeepers of the UN.
- President Tudjman of Croatia accused the UN of effectively maintaining the secessionist Serb areas and, last October, said that he would not renew the peacekeepers' mandate after March this year. He relented eventually, but on his terms, insisting that the United Nations force must be scaled down and that it must police the borders between Croatia and Bosnia and Serbia.



Planners spend months on dreaded pullout

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE nightmare option for the United Nations and Nato is coming closer — the withdrawal of the 44,000 UN peacekeepers from the former Yugoslavia as renewed fighting breaks out in different areas of the divided region.

Endless contingency planning has been carried out by Nato. Only last week, Lieutenant-General Mike Walker, the British commander of Nato's new 100,000-man Rapid Reaction Corps, which has been selected for the job of evacuating the troops, expressed confidence that his soldiers were ready to go if called upon by the UN.

The political assessment is very

different, however. Nato ambassadors and foreign ministries seem almost united in their dread of having to authorise a withdrawal. They know that, however good the planning, a withdrawal operation will always be threatened by the unpredictability of the civil war, the mountainous terrain and the limited number of routes that Nato forces could use.

There are too many questions that cannot be answered until the operation begins, for example, how the warring parties react, how many civilians will have to be evacuated, and whether there will be widespread civil protests to prevent the peacekeepers from leaving. "We could have any number of contingency plans for withdrawing civilians from Bosnia

but they would probably all be pretty worthless," a Nato source said.

Nato has been working for months on a withdrawal plan, numbered 40104. The final draft is so detailed and thick that it looks as if the alliance is preparing for a war of its own.

Nato foreign ministers on the North Atlantic Council will meet in The Netherlands this month to review the plan, which involves the deployment of about 40,000 troops from the Rapid Reaction Corps. However, senior diplomatic sources said there was little chance that the strategy would be approved. "They're more likely to call for further work on the same lines," one Nato ambassador said.

The reluctance to withdraw leaves the UN with only two other options for

the mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Either the 20,000 peacekeepers they carry on with their present mandate in the hope that their continued presence will provide some form of stability even as the fighting increases, or agreement must be reached to send reinforcements to boost the security of the peacekeepers. The French have already demanded better protection.

Talk of all-out war, however, is both premature and unrealistic. None of the factions has the luxury of a proper war economy and neither the Bosnian Serbs nor the Muslim-Croat federation forces have the mobility or flexibility to launch widespread attacks. Operations tend to be concentrated in small pockets, and much of the region is relatively peaceful.

Falcone murder trial opens in Sicily

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE trial of 41 Mafia dons and "men of honour" alleged to have assassinated Judge Giovanni Falcone, his wife and three bodyguards on the road to Palermo in 1992 in a bombing that shook Italian democracy began at last yesterday.

Security was extraordinarily tight at a specially built bunker court in the Sicilian town of Calimera, whose investigating magistrates were given the task of tracking down the killers. The alleged *Capo dei capi*, "boss of bosses", Salvatore "Totò" Riina, kept the court waiting for two hours because the police helicopter from Palermo was delayed by bad weather. Signor Riina looked calm inside a bullet-proof glass cage as the proceedings began.

Eleven other alleged mobsters were present, including Nitto Santapaula, another member of the Mafia's ruling



Riina: accused of assassinating a judge near Palermo

commission who ran the organisation in Catania. The hearing was adjourned twice this year because of technical problems, including the tardy appointment of jurors.

The two prosecutors, Paolo Giordano and Luca Tesaroli, said: "We realise it will be a complex and very difficult case." They hoped that emerging evidence would lead to further investigations but

stopped short of accepting criticism by the dead judge's sister, Maria Falcone, who has protested that the real masterminds of the bombing, including politicians with links to the Mafia and uncontrollable members of Italy's services, have not been brought to trial.

"The responsibility of Cosa Nostra for the massacre has been made clear," they said.

Red tape hits fight against EU fraud

FROM STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT IN MAASTRICHT

INVESTIGATIONS into multi-million pound fraud within the European Union can be launched with a single telephone call, but prosecuting a criminal is often delayed for months by national bureaucracy, a senior Brussels official said yesterday.

Moves to overcome the legal problems are being stalled by powerful opposition. Britain is believed to be one of several members dragging their heels. Siegfried Reinke, the adviser and deputy director of the EU's anti-fraud unit, said that better international co-operation and the recruitment of more investigators from across Europe into his unit now meant that cases could be started very quickly. However, he said: "It seems member states, at least ministers of

justice and home affairs, believe in prewar nationalism."

Speaking at a conference of European journalists in Maastricht, Herr Reinke gave the example of a case initiated in Rotterdam that involved Italy. The Dutch, he said,

would send a request for legal help to the Ministry of Justice in The Hague. It would then be passed to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for agreement. Once the request had been accepted in The Hague, it would go to Rome where the same process would

start all over again among the Italian ministries. By the time the bureaucrats had finished, the papers would be several months late. Herr Reinke pointed out.

It was possible for cases to be lost, he added, because the delays meant the limitation on prosecutions passed. Questions over extradition, decisions on who should be the lead prosecutor and carry out the legal side of the investigations had to be decided, he said.

Talks began in February in Brussels over a new convention on EU fraud. Herr Reinke said: "Member states who cry the loudest against fraud are the most reluctant to agree." He refused to be drawn when asked if he was referring to Britain.

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هكذا من الأصل

Kaunda predicts Zambia 'explosion'

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH KAUNDA, the former Zambian President, predicted yesterday "an explosion" in his country and called for early elections to enable him to run again for the leadership.

"The nation is now very badly divided," Dr Kaunda, 70, said during a visit to London. "The gap between rich and poor is growing bigger and bigger, and that is extremely dangerous. I cannot pretend that an explosion will not be inevitable from angry people from the grassroots level up."

The man who was "Father of the Nation" for nearly 30 years after independence from Britain in 1964 says he launched his re-election attempt at the end of last year after a four-month tour of the country trying to assess its problems and his own popularity with the people. Elections are not due until October next year, but Dr Kaunda began campaigning in earnest in January.

"The rural areas are devastated, our agriculture has gone, and in the urban areas 200,000 of 350,000 jobs have disappeared. As a nation, we are now making nothing, just reselling goods we have imported and paid for with donor funds," he said.

Dr Kaunda, who is believed to be supported by his old friends in the African National Congress in South Africa, has held a series of rallies to test the political temperature, and says: "Mothers come

half-dressed, their breasts bare and feeding their infants, weeping and crying. They said, 'You must come back, we are suffering'."

Dr Kaunda, who once danced with Baroness Thatcher and years later accused her of "kissing apartheid," says that the present Government of Frederick Chiluba, which came to power in 1991, is crippling the country's economy and that soaring prices for medicine, new medical fees and even mortuary costs are causing deep unrest in Zambia.

The teetotal, vegetarian son of a Malawian Church of Scotland pastor, who jogs and plays golf and table tennis to keep fit, is in Britain on his way to a conference in the United States. He is being accompanied on his visit by Rabbison Chongo, his former Finance Minister, and an aide.

Dr Kaunda says that he was reconciled to retirement from politics after his defeat in 1991. "I gave in. I met Chiluba. I took him to the library and I briefed him. I said, 'Mr President, if you ever need my services, I will do all I can. God bless you and goodbye'."

He then embarked on a series of foreign tours and "was settling down to this kind of life" when he was approached last year by a delegation of opposition politicians. "They asked me, 'Old man, things are not going well. Why don't you come back?' Dr Kaunda was hailed as a national hero in

Zambia until the mid-1970s when the world price of copper, the nation's main export, collapsed. The economy suffered further when Dr Kaunda cut off relations with Zimbabwe — then Rhodesia — and offered a haven to Joshua Nkomo's guerrilla fighters.

One of Dr Kaunda's main problems in persuading Zambians to re-elect him is his age. "People are fond of him, but some feel that he belongs to the past," Dr Chaloka Beyani, of the Oxford University Refugee Studies Centre, said earlier this year.

As far as age is concerned, Dr Kaunda can point to the example of Nelson Mandela, 77, as well as probably being able to count on the South African President's support because ANC exiles were encouraged to establish their main base in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, during the apartheid years. "Ever since I started this crusade, the Government has been frightened stiff. My return to politics has stabilised the situation, though, because people can now hope that something better can take place."

Dr Kaunda's prediction of unrest in Zambia comes after an earlier gloomy forecast. Weeks after his defeat in 1991, Dr Kaunda wrote a poem while on holiday in Kenya which contains the lines "Lord, how dare we sleep when Burundi and Rwanda refuse to sleep!"

حزباً من الأهل



Kenneth Kaunda yesterday: Zambia's economy "is being crippled"

Banda's lawyers press case for murder mistrial

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THE British-led defence team in the trial of the former dictator of Malawi, Dr Hastings Banda, yesterday attempted to have the murder case against him and his aides dismissed after their client again failed to appear because of ill health.

Dr Banda's personal physician, Heatherwick Ntaha, submitted a report saying that the former President was suffering dangerously high blood pressure. He feared that Dr Banda could have a stroke if he were forced to attend court.

"It is my view that Dr Banda will be unable to stand six hours' strain, five days a week," Dr Ntaha said, adding that his patient had collapsed last week when he tried to climb steps at his home.

Dr Banda, who is said to be nearly 100 years old, John Tembo, his close associate and former Cabinet minister, "Mama" Cecilia Kadzandira, the dictator's long-time companion, and three policemen are accused of killing four politicians in 1983. Three of the victims — Aaron Gadamu, Dick Matenje and Twaibu Sangala — were Cabinet ministers, while the fourth, David Chiwanga, was an MP.

They are alleged to have been murdered for opposing Mr Tembo's appointment as

acting President during Dr Banda's absence from the country. Judge Mackson Mkhandawire has rejected an application for bail for Mr Tembo, and Dr Banda is under house arrest.

George Stambrook, QC, argued there should be a mistrial because of Dr Banda's health and the lack of substantial evidence. He said the trial had been prejudiced because of international coverage and the Government's decision to exhume the victims' bodies before proceedings started.

More than 200 women from Dr Banda's Malawi Congress Party petitioned the court on Friday saying that he was too old and frail to appear. "The High Court has numerous steps at the entrance which would present a formidable and impossible physical challenge for the former President," the petition said.

Last week, the judge delayed the start of the trial, which had already been postponed, because the prosecution had failed to submit details of the charges to the defence team three weeks before, as required by law. Kamudoni Nyasulu, the Director of Public Prosecutions, said that the trial should begin whether Dr Banda was present or not.

India swelters in summertime blues

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Indian summer has started early. Bombay, the commercial capital, fumed and sweated for more than four hours without electricity after the overloaded power distribution system died.

A dust storm pulverised Delhi on Monday night, covering the city in a fresh layer of grime, while telephone lines and power cables crashed to the ground. The storm shut out the sun for a while, bringing respite from one of the hottest early summer days on record.

There is drought almost everywhere, with rivers dry, villages evacuated and wells empty. Calcutta is shrivelling from one of its worst heat

waves, with temperatures in some districts touching nearly 45C (113F). It is the time of year when India prays for rain, still weeks away for most areas.

Malaria, which killed thousands last year, has reappeared from Assam in the east to Rajasthan in the west, claiming a formidable toll of lives early in the season. The army has been called out in

Locusts plague Australia

Sydney: Locusts in the northern state of Queensland are threatening to become Australia's worst plague in 25 years.

"We could well be looking at a plague and that will spell disaster for rural Australia," said Elizabeth Bie, opera-

Assam to fill in stagnant ponds to halt mosquito breeding — a belated, inadequate answer to a menace greater than last year's plague panic.

Delhi is short of water and trees are dying because the widespread use of tubewells has lowered the water table beyond the reach of roots. Monday's dust storm was like a massive hair-dryer blowing

hot air through the city. Bombay, a city of ten million, has suffered twice in two weeks from a collapse of electricity supplies. Monday's breakdown also affected many other cities in Maharashtra state, where Bombay is located. Commuter trains that carry millions of people home to the distant suburbs, where most Bombayites live, were disrupted, causing chaos on the roads and fights at railway stations and bus-stops.

There is unprecedented drought in Tripura state in the northeast. The town of Cherrapunji, 100 miles north of the affected region, is still listed in most guide books as the wettest place on earth. But that was before the forests were hacked down: it, too, has a drought.

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A sleeveless shift, a cashmere cardigan and a feathered hat will take you from Ascot to Henley

Simply divine for the Season



Fashion
by
IAIN R.
WEBB

In the spring of 1930 *Vogue* magazine advised its readers about the finer points of dressing for the Season. "For Ascot you dress according to the weather. If it's bad, a frock of black satin with a white collar, a satin cardigan lined in white. If it's dull, a beige crepe with dipping hem and a fox-edged cape. If it's fine, a flowered chiffon to the ground with a big-brimmed straw hat and gloves to the elbows."

Vogue took occasion dressing seriously. Fashion has loosened its dictatorial grip, yet some of these principles can still be applied for a special day out.

Whether attending Royal Ascot or any one of the forthcoming events which demand a certain dressiness — Henley, Cowes, a garden party or a summer wedding — guidelines continue to make good sense. Dressing up for social events can be difficult enough, so sticking to a basic colour palette such as black, beige and floral tones, or this season's ubiquitous pastel pink, provides less opportunity for things to go awry.

What is great this season is that fashion itself has a dressed-up air about it. The revamped retro images paraded on the international designer catwalks ("glamorous", "ladylike" and "polished" are the buzzwords this summer) offer the right mood for smart functions.

The key to occasion dressing is to maintain a well-turned-out appearance, while at the same time managing a certain carefree nonchalance. The ideal option this year is the latest interpretation of the suit — a dress and cardigan combination. Easy yet frightfully elegant. Comfortable but achingly chic.

Choose a simple, understated knee-length shift dress — remembering the colour code rules as laid down by those stylish ladies at *Vogue* — and match it with a cute cardigan à la Kim Novak, Tippi Hedren or Jackie O. With so many designers showing the sleeveless dress in their autumn collections it is a wise buy as it will continue to work long after summer has gone. Look out for the latest cropped



cardigans. Most labels have redesigned this classic (even the established cashmere houses such as N. Peal offer a shrunken version), or choose a size smaller than you might normally buy without risking too tight a fit.

Colour can be matched, as with the Whistles pale pink satin dress worn with a darker raspberry pink cardigan (pictured above), or offset, like the Oasis floral dress teamed with a sky-blue cardigan to pick out the print (left). "What looks really cute is to do up the top button of the cardigan and wear it around the shoulders so it becomes an accessory," says Tierney Gifford Horne, the fashion director at *Harpers & Queen*. "It's very Grace Kelly."

Accessories, in dynamic black and white, enhance the spirit of sophistication. "These little shift dresses are great when accessorised

with gloves and slingback sandals. It gives the outfit a finished touch," Gifford Horne says. "It's understated, feminine, and not at all about power dressing. However when you wore a suit you knew you were wearing a 'together' outfit, so these simple pieces have to be simply the best to work. Cardigans should be sea island cotton or cashmere."

The clutch bag makes a bold reappearance, exaggerated in extremes: either dainty and diminutive with just enough room for a powder compact and set of keys, or giant, dramatic and almost dangerously unwieldy.

Hats are fun again, echoing the retro styled fashions. Feathers appear in every shape and form, from tiny 1930s-style headbands to vast cartwheel picture hats. Fluffy, frivolous, fabulous hats. The Season starts here.



ABOVE FAR LEFT: White marabou hat, £189, Stephen Jones, Selfridges, W1. Cream floral dress, £29.99, Oasis, 185 Victoria St, SW1 and selected branches nationwide (0171-377 5335). Pale blue cashmere cardigan, £195, N. Peal, 37 and 71 Burlington Arcade, W1. White leather clutch bag, £85, Degree by Dollargrand, Selfridges, W1 (0171-794 3028). White strappy shoes, £39, Sacha, 147 Oxford St, W1 (0171-434 1467).

ABOVE CENTRE: Small white marabou hat, to order, Catherine Walker for The Chelsea Design Company, 65 Sydney St, SW3 (0171-352 4626). Pale pink satin dress, £110, Whistles, Farnwick, Bond St, W1. Raspberry pink cotton cardigan, £29.99, Oasis, as above.

RIGHT: Large black leather hat, £275, Frederick Fox, Harrods, SW1; Jenners, Edinburgh; House of Fraser, Manchester. Black/white polka dot dress, £99, Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place, W1. Ivory cashmere cardigan, £195, N. Peal, as above. Black leather clutch bag, £85, Degree by Dollargrand, as above. Black patent strappy shoes, £30, Marks & Spencer, selected branches nationwide.

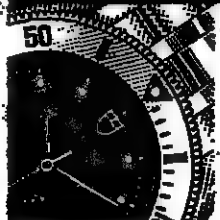
LEFT: Black leather/bead headband, £52, to order from Stephen Jones (0171-734 9666). Beige silk dress, approx £155, Benny Ong, Fortnum & Mason, Piccadilly, W1; Marie Horn, 15 Maldon Rd, Great Baddow, Essex; Butterworth Jones, 47 Kay St, Rawtenstall. Dark blue cotton cardigan, £29.99, Warehouse, branches nationwide. Black patent/mesh stripe clutch bag, £11.95, Vanessa, Selfridges, W1. Black jersey gloves, £15.99, Cornelia James, Dickens & Jones (0171-734 7070). Black patent mules, £59.95, Sacha, as above.

Photographs by CHRIS DAWES
Hair by Gordon Pinder
Make-up by Mandy Winrow for Shu Uemura

"Punctuality is the thief of time."

Oscar Wilde.

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Is Britain doomed to boom-bust?

Tim Congdon questions the case for raising interest rates

Interest rates seem certain to go up later this week although a further blow to home owners will be the last thing the Prime Minister's rebellious backbenchers will be looking for in the wake of a local election rout.

According to the most recent report from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, nearly 60 per cent of purchasing managers saw an overall increase in prices for materials and components last month, whereas only 2 per cent found lower prices. With inflationary pressures gaining strength in this way, the financial press is convinced that at their next monthly meeting, on Friday, Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George will agree to a 1/2 per cent rise in base rates.

As so often before in British monetary policy, there is a dispute between the Tweedledum of the state of the pound sterling and the Tweedledee of the state of the domestic economy. Tweedledum says that higher interest rates are essential to prevent the currency collapsing on the foreign exchanges and causing a sharp rise in import costs. Tweedledee argues, on the contrary, that British people and companies have already cut back their spending, and that another move to dear money would be needlessly painful. In the British monetary debate the role of Tweedledum has traditionally been played by the Bank of England, or more loosely, by "the City", while manufacturing industry has been the Tweedledee.

The slide against mark has a significant message

The Confederation of British Industry has been asking companies about plant capacity and its utilisation rate for more than 30 years, so that comparisons can be easily made between the present situation and previous business cycles, including the notorious "boom-bust cycles" of the 1970s and 1980s. It turns out that the proportion of companies where a lack of capacity constrains output was similar in the April 1995 survey to that in October 1988, not far from the peak of the Lawson boom.

There may be something bizarre about British economists complaining that exports are excessive, and that manufacturing has too many orders and is making too high profits. But — if all these good things stimulate inflation — they must be brought under control. So the signs of above-normal capacity usage in manufacturing are being widely interpreted as a second argument, over and above the simple fact of currency depreciation, for a rise in interest rates.

But the cheap-money advocate Tweedledee has several good counters to the dear-money man Tweedledum. First of all, manufacturing represents only 23.7 per cent of the economy. It may be an important part of the British economy, in that it provides the bulk of our exports, but it is still only a part of a much larger whole. In the remaining 76.3 per cent of the economy capacity is not in the least stretched. For example, the construction industry has suffered another steep decline in orders over the last year and is worried about a second recession. Retailing also has barely recovered from the recession of 1990 and 1991, but is now facing weak demand because of heavy tax increases and the rise in interest rates that has already taken place.

Since last August base rates have gone up from 5 1/2 per cent to 6 1/2 per cent. Although this is only a modest change by the standards of the past 25 years, retail sales have been flat since the monetary tightening began. Another rise in base rates hardly seems necessary.

Comparisons with the Lawson boom are wide of the mark. The Lawson boom was due, above all, to an overheated housing market, which stimulated excessive mortgage credit and led to extraordinarily rapid rates of monetary growth. In retrospect, the monetary tightening of late 1994 and early 1995 may appear sensible and appropriate. If it proves sufficient to keep inflation in the lower half of the official target range of 1 to 4 per cent, all will be well. But was it really justified by domestic monetary conditions? Or wasn't it another instance of Britain's policy-makers being too anxious about the external value of the pound and too nervous about the erratic fluctuations in the world's exchange markets?

The author is director of Lombard Street Research.



MAY 1945



MAY 1995

Now the end begins

Wars are ended by victory and defeat, not by meddling, as in Bosnia

The briefing was emphatic. There was no question of our boys getting involved in a civil war. They were there to protect relief supplies. No, they would not "enforce" peace, only police it if both sides wanted it. No, the troops would never become hostages. The army was not that stupid. They were custodians of charity, not combatants. Above all they would never be trapped. They would make sure they could withdraw with dignity when the job was done. This was a limited, short-term operation while diplomats and politicians laid the ground for a political settlement.

No, not Bosnia, but Somalia, and not British troops but Americans. But no matter, the self-deception was the same. The same idiot UN resolutions were passed. The same diplomats bid for the same glory as peace-makers. Politicians gave the same commitments to their generals. Their generals gave the same pledge to their troops and their troops gave the same warning to the combatants on the ground. The patron saint of meddling, The Worstest of Intentions, took common sense by the throat and throttled the life out of it.

This week the four-month-old ceasefire in Bosnia ended with a widely forecast bang. For good measure, the three-year-old one in Croatia ended too. Both events have stripped any credibility from the UN's reckless intervention in the former Yugoslavia. UN troops are constantly being held hostage, usually ransomed for arms and supplies. The Royal Welch Fusiliers are all but besieged in Gorazde, without even fuel for their trucks. The Croats have casually invaded the "UN buffer zone" in Serb-held Krajina. The Bosnian Government has seized two Serb-held communication towers. Zagreb is being shelled. Sarajevo is being shelled.

Within weeks, the bridges will open and Serbia will be supplying its Bosnian Serb allies again. America will be calling for more sanctions. The UN will be passing more resolutions. The Contact Group will be booking more hotel rooms in Geneva and ordering more maps. Cartographic diplomacy will resume. The great Yugoslav dance can begin all over again, to the profit of a few and the misery of many.

The British and French Governments, with the most troops on the ground, have both recently hinted that they are losing patience. It is not

clear with whom. Douglas Hurd has rattled his sabre at the Serb Radovan Karadzic. He has said that if the Bosnian Serbs do not behave properly, he will emphatically go away. This appears to have left Dr Karadzic unmoved. Mr Hurd says if the Muslims and Croats are not careful, he will leave them alone too. Meanwhile a mind-boggling "war crimes trial" has been opened in The Hague, largely for the benefit of the press, to try Dr Karadzic in his absence.

Welcoming the British Unprotror General, Sir Michael Rose, back from duty in January, the Defence Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, said he had been responsible for "major improvements in Bosnia in the last 12 months". They included building over 1,000 km of roads and restoring gas and electricity. General Rose said if the UN pulled out it would be catastrophic, since it was "pro-peace, pro-humanity and pro-peace". They sounded like a couple of peacekeepers on an Aldermaston march. What they have really done, at vast cost, is put in place the infrastructure for a resumption of hostilities.

I assume that all or most of the UN forces in former Yugoslavia will soon be withdrawn. The pace of withdrawal will be dictated by the cocktail of international prestige and domestic pressure that conditioned their original dispatch. Politicians as well as soldiers have flunked to cover. I hope not too many soldiers get killed waiting: Britain has lost 12 already. As a result of cruel negligence on the part of the UN command, the troops were not withdrawn under cover of the ceasefire. Now some 40,000 Nato troops, twice the number in Bosnia at present, will be required to protect the withdrawal, an operation sardonically called Determined Effort. With American support, this undertaking will be one of the great retreats of UN history.

Already the Bosnian adventure is developing the same fiction as the American attempts to sort out Lebanon and Somalia. The fiction is that the UN doing something is always better than the UN doing nothing. Otherwise what would be the point of the UN? Besides, there was no alternative at the time.

The thesis that any UN intervention must be for the best is pernicious. Yesterday I noted an American diplomat, Ambassador Hunter, giving the UN and Nato credit for the recent ceasefires. True, General Rose brokered some time ceasefires. Credit can also go to foreigners for the many convoys escorted through military lines, the many artillery shells not fired into Muslim enclaves and many Muslim resolutions prevented. Some relief reached. Some did not. But if ever ceasefire theory was tested to destruction it has been in Bosnia.

Simon Jenkins

The first UN commander, General Lewis Mackenzie, used to bellow at the Geneva mediators: "God preserve us from ceasefires!" A ceasefire is phoney peace. It is an opportunity to raise funds abroad, rearm, regroup and reinvigorate the troops for the next onslaught. Worse, it temporarily alleviates the agony of war and thus postpones its resolution in victory or defeat. It offers respite for both the winning and the losing side, and ensures that the next round is bloodier and more merciless. Wars end either in victory or exhaustion. Ceasefires negotiated by outsiders pretend otherwise. Those who claim to have "opened a window on peace" are cynically meddling in other people's affairs. That was the case when this crazy venture began in 1992. It is no less the case today.

As for there being no alternative, rubbish. As long ago as November 1992, the Times correspondent in Bosnia was reporting that the insertion of British and other UN troops was "doomed to failure". This was not because they were unable to support humanitarian supplies, but because they would be expected to stop the war. This they could never do. There was always a clear alternative. This

was to do what wiser heads advocated (including many in the British Army) and keep soldiers out of this conflict. Leave Bosnia to the relief agencies to do as best they can, as in Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Angola. (I let pass the Apocalypse Option of going in even deeper, risking confrontation with Russia and somehow "teaching the Serbs a lesson they would never forget": an option strictly for lunatics.)

Dickens wrote scathingly of the do-gooders of his time, who sought to "settle the world's destinies on a slate and wipe its tears with a rag". We have been wiping former Yugoslavia's tears for four years now. We seem to make them flow faster. The only blessing so far is that, for all the efforts of lobbyists for either side, the outside world has limited itself mostly to test-wiping. The intervention of governments, international agencies, diplomats and soldiers may have been wretchedly counterproductive for the Bosnians. At least the rest of Europe, and America, has restrained itself from serious engagement. Yugoslavia has not been permitted to play the 1914 gambit — yet.

In Yugoslavia a historically divided community was held together by a temporary dictatorship. That dictatorship froze the local institutions which might have brought divided communities together. There was no democratic leadership, no habit of association, no tradition of entrenched tolerance on which to build peace. The constitution-building of the Contact Group was as absurd as its cartography. When central authority collapsed, inter-communal relations reverted to the most primitive tribalism — the grim "other means" with which politics continues into war. Until this process is acted out, outsiders are distractors, confusers, above all, delayers.

Bosnia is not a genteel boxing match of three rounds, three ceasefires and an umpire's decision on points. It is a prizefight that insists on going the distance. There is much for private charity to do. There is a role for generosity to refugees. There will be a role for help in reconstruction. But not now. Hard though it is for the "can-do-gooder" to accept, his help will only postpone the endgame. Peace will come when the participants settle their own destinies on a slate and wipe their own tears with a rag. The best news from Bosnia will be when we are out of it and the end can begin.

Alan Coren



Now this is serious: the country is running out of daftness

Like Judy Garland, I just adore the boy next door: loving him more than I can say, however, would probably be pitching it a bit strong, so let me say instead merely that, like Ben Jonson, I love the man this side of idolatry. If only because it isn't every day of the week that I can shoo Ben Jonson into the same sentence.

It is just on Wednesday. That is the day I take my seat in this column to pursue the kind of self-indulgent wittering exemplified above, while, across the column wall, the boy next door takes his Wednesday seat to pursue issues of great pith and moment, the source of the adoration in which I hold him. That, and the fact that he is a model neighbour: for Simon has never banged on the wall to tell me to keep the facetiousness down, he has never stuck his head over it to complain that the unkempt state of my syntax and the gaping holes in my arguments are ruining the neighbourhood, and has never (as far as I know) written in outrage to our common landlord seeking my eviction for living off the earnings of a disorderly column. He has allowed me to have my weekly bit on the side without demur.

Since, as the BBC daily reminds us, neighbours should be there for one another, I cannot this morning stand idly by and watch the boy next door so sunk in gloom. For Simon is not only the illustrious tenant of the free property to the west, he is also a Millennium Commissioner, charged with disbursing £1.6 billion of National Lottery takings on projects designed to usher in 2000 AD with a bit of a bang. But on Sunday night, as the deadline for applications fell, there was nothing there with any bang at all, and his slim shoulders slumped. Nor had they straightened by Monday morning, when he publicly declared himself disappointed at the lack of imagination behind the 1,400 proposals submitted. "I wanted to see more follies," he told the press, "more oddity, more quirkiness."

That, alas, is the penalty for being a good neighbour. Simon must have known, for he has his ear to the ground, if not the wall, that this was exactly the kind of stuff which I have in chaotic abundance over here, but he didn't like to bother me. He didn't want to pop round to ask if I could spare a spoonful of follies or a couple of pints of oddities, he wouldn't dream of begging a few ounces of quirkiness to tide him over until 2000.

A pity. Glancing through the long grey list of worthy supplicants for millennial boulders and commemorative troughs, the eye soon moistens at the lack of recognition for that peerless silliness which down the long arches of the years has set our culture apart from all the rest. There is, I see, no project to build Blandings Castle and fill it to its crenellated brim with aunts and pigs, no suggestion that a giant Dong be placed atop Canary Wharf whose luminous nose would be a light for all mankind, no plan to erect a huge Fez of Discovery on the South Bank where successive generations of impressionists would keep the memory of Tommy Cooper alive throughout eternity, no scheme to redeem some defunct Rhonda shaft as a major hole down which the world's children would be able to parasail in pursuit of waistcoated rabbits and evaporating cats, no clarion call for flying circus or carry-ons up reconstructed Khybers or son et lumière spectacles at 23 Railway Cuttings, East Cheam, no proposal for a Vintage Postcard Run from London to Brighton to learn the beach with balloon-busted matrons, plum-faced vicars, ebullient honey-mooners, and homunculi with rolled-up trousers inquiring whether anyone has seen their little Willie.

Need it be too late? The boy next door and I have no small experience of deadlines and of the elasticity which may be wheedled into them should the circumstance be deemed exceptional, and it would surely be impossible to deem this anything but. For we are talking about a major moment in our history here. We are talking about the year 2000, and to quote Max Miller — if only because nobody has as yet had the sense to insist on commemorating him more substantially — there'll never be another.

Atholl do nicely

THE DUKE of Atholl, one of Britain's richest landowners, is being accused of low tricks in the Highlands. He is imposing his own private road toll on a track leading to a beauty spot on his massive Perthshire estate.

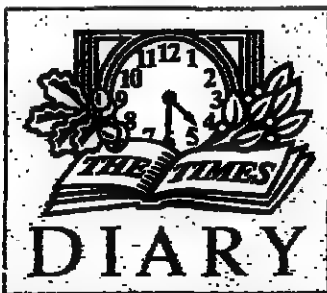
His Grace, whose fortune is estimated at £140 million and who commands Britain's only private army from his 120-room castle, is charging £5 per vehicle to use the

12-mile unkempt road which leads to Glen Tilt through a most spectacular part of his fiefdom. The spot will feature later this year in a BBC documentary on a local gamekeeper.

"It sounds to me like he is cashing-in on the BBC series. He never misses a trick. This is a disgrace," fumes Merv Rolfe, leader of the Labour group on Tayside Regional Council. "I suppose that if you refuse to pay, one of his Atholl Highlanders marches you off to a dungeon in Blair Castle."

The Old Etonian duke's ingenious cash-generating schemes frequently ruffle feathers. There was the fuss in January when he applied for a £400,000 Forestry Commission grant to plant trees and, in 1993, another grant of £300,000 to restore the castle gardens. He also clashed with rambles' organisations last year over rights of way.

But locals privately warn him to heed the experience of an ancestor who levied tolls in 1867. In protest at the charge for crossing the Tay at Dunkeld, rioters locked up the tollkeeper and hurried the gates into the river. Replacement gates were destroyed by a mob armed with



axes. Eventually the gates were quietly removed by the duke in the dead of night. The current duke was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Fay's cross

THE BACK streets of King's Cross have, of late, been seeing a surprising amount of Fay Weldon. She has been seen in the unsalubrious area at night bearing large sums of cash.

The beneficiaries are ruthless car-clampers. When I bumped into the author and her husband, Nick Fox, on Monday night they were leaving the launch party of David Lodge's new novel *Therapy* to secure the release of a friend's automobile. "There have been previous incidents, they've caught Fay before,"

grumbled Fox. "It's awful," added his wife. "It's a terrible place to get to and you have to trek past all these kerb-crawlers shouting things because they think you're a prostitute."

On one issue, Virginia Bottomley remains adamant: she will not privatise the NHS. Yet her health department's latest annual report talks of plans to develop "market-testing, privatisation... An official cringer: 'It's bad drafting — plain and simple. There are no plans to privatise the NHS — never have been, never will be...'"

Parting shot

AMONG THOSE used in the 1940s to advertise Brylcreem was one Denis Compton — the Middlesex and England cricketer. In a new programme for BBC Radio 4 on May 6, Compton tells how he still gets called "Compo the Brylcreem boy".

"People completely identified me with Brylcreem, but I used it very sparingly," says Compton. "Once, when I got hit on the head by a ball from Ray Lindwall, the Australian fast bowler, I found that people had altered all the Brylcreem posters of me in the Underground and had drawn plasters stuck on my head."



Fitting conclusions: trying on wartime footwear

Jeremy Hanley tripped up yet again. Preparing for an interview on ITV West in Bristol yesterday, the Tory party chairman, momentarily thought he was addressing Welsh instead of West Country viewers. He intoned: "Bore Da" — which is, of course, Welsh for "good day".

Sole mates

A GROUP of elderly but smartly-shod individuals are meeting for one of the most poignant wartime

reunions. In 1941 they were all recipients of presents from an American benefactor of that rare commodity in wartime east London — shoes. Four of those traced will gather at the American Embassy on May 16. "I was only about four then," recalls Joan Fisher née Clark. "But I can remember the smell of leather and us all being huddled together. We could see lots and lots of shoes — weren't we pleased to get them."

P.H.S



"Relax, this is rented"

هكذا من الأصل

amputated *at sea* after the Tenerife action and probably thrown overboard.
An early example of Spanish fishing over-efficiency I should think.

Yours etc,
DAVID SHANNON,
The Nelson Society,
39 Woodland Mount, Hertford.

Now that children have computers as well as television to distract them, what social activities do they miss out on?

Home alone with only a screen

For 21 years the BBC has put out a programme during school holidays with the nattering invitation *Why Don't You Switch Off Your Television Set And Do Something Less Boring Instead?* But what if, when they do switch off, children simply switch on the computer instead?

A distinguished panel of broadcasting's great and good is forming to repeat for the 1990s the late Professor Hilde Himmelweit's classic study *Television and the Child*, published in 1958.

On Monday, a group of potential backers met at the Broadcasting Standards Council to plan what they call the new Himmelweit. Although a formal announcement will not be made for some weeks, those likely to be involved include the BBC, the Independent Television Commission, the London School of Economics (where Himmelweit, a social psychologist, did her work) and Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, thanks to the special interest in children's television taken by its chairman, Ward Thomas, a late new father.

The Standards Council will also participate, but in a limited way, as its remit confines it to broadcasting only. Seed money has already come from Brussels: the European Parliament has expressed an interest, and so have the Australians and the Japanese. The phenomenon of children's absorption with the screen is global. So too are the programmes and games they watch and play. The aim of the study, which could cost about £500,000 over three years, will most definitely not be to try to crack the old chestnut, what effect does television have on children? Instead, like Himmelweit, it will concentrate on the use children make of television and what activities they give up in order to watch it.

Himmelweit, studying the first generation of children to grow up with television, found that what

television "displaced" was "non-purposeful activity" — listening to the radio, going to the cinema, reading comics, simple banging about. She also found that children watched a good deal of what their parents watched.

Today even Mrs Mary Whitehouse recognises that children have television sets in their bedrooms, beyond parental control. She may be less aware, however, of the many who have two screens in their rooms, and who swivel with no loss of concentration between the computer and the TV. But deprived of television, it is unlikely that children would, as they did in one sardonic episode of *The Simpsons*, return to the bacchanalian pastimes of happier days: skipping with a rope, walking on fences, playing ball with the kids in the neighbourhood. A survey by the London research organisation



BRENDA MADDOX

Handel Communications reports that today's children are too frightened to go out. Television is their security blanket against the terrorism, war, kidnapping and bullying which they believe lie just outside the front door. Television has made them better-informed — up to a point. They worry about Bosnia without realising that it is far away.

It will take research of some magnitude, however, to encompass all the changes in the family and society which now influence children's dependence on the screen. The Handel research found that *Home Alone* was no fantasy: an entire day may go by without a child even seeing his or her mother. This reminded me of a friend who teaches in a London comprehensive who told me about a time she gave the traditional advice, "Ask your mother to help you", and wanted to bite her tongue off when she saw the look on the teenager's face. Clearly mum was not available.

HOW FITTING. The man who lost his franchise in 1991 because he refused to overbid returns to the British television scene in the same week that the folly of channel auctioning has been exposed once

again. Bruce Gyngell, once of TV-am, will come back from Australia as managing director of Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television, whose dominant partner, Yorkshire, is generally acknowledged to have paid too much to retain its own franchise. The now merged Yorkshire and Tyne Tees are paying nearly £1 million a week to the Treasury in auction fees.

It was Mr Gyngell who received a personal letter of regret from Mrs Thatcher who said that his loss of franchise was not what she meant at all when she put the ITV franchises on the block, to be sold to the highest bidder. Gyngell lost out because he refused to commit his company to more than £15 million. His rivals, bidding £35 million, won.

The vast disparity in the bids for Channel 5 — from £2 million to £36 million a year — handed into the

Independent Television Commission yesterday shows that there is no market price for an unknown quantity. Once again the ITC has been drawn into a City game for which it is unqualified. Bad enough that, as a regulator of public service broadcasting, it should have to weigh the unweighable — promises of programme quality and originality. But the ITC must at the same time somehow assess "the quality of the money" — that is, assure the public that the highest bidder who passes the programme quality threshold also has a sound financial plan.

The four bids submitted yesterday will keep analysts guessing even after the winner is announced. Did Michael Grade's bid last week against Rupert Murdoch, whose News International owns *The Times* and 40 per cent of the satellite company, BSkyB, shrivel the size of the bid that BSkyB, Granada et al. submitted down to an apparently derisory £2 million?

Will the whole drama wind up in judicial review?

The real value of science on the BBC

Documentaries have a vital role to play, says

James Lovelock

WHEN organizations like the BBC are taken over by their accountants, they become like gardens managed by weeding only. At first it all looks neat and tidy but soon there is nothing but bare earth. Accountability is needed but so is innovation, the planting of seeds, and the renewal of hardy animals.

As a scientist and environmentalist I want the BBC to continue presenting science in a palatable and comprehensible way. For this we need good documentaries and drama that includes science and scientists. The stunning new series *The Seven Wonders of the World* is an example: a joy to look at and to take part in. Programmes like this could wither under the weekkilling if the cuts announced this week go through.

Whenever an environmental misery occurs, such as Chernobyl or the death of the last blue butterfly, the news is dominated by the strident and partial voices of the green, farming, industrial and political lobbies. The truth suffers.

Consider global warming. The scientists concerned are 95 per cent sure that it is a real phenomenon and one that will grow in intensity. The public are confused by arguments between conflicting interests. To add to the confusion, four years ago nature intervened and the volcano Pinatubo threw up a sunshade of stratospheric haze. This brief respite persuaded the inhabitants of America, where even last year's book is out of date, that global warming does not exist.

Now the haze has almost vanished. The unpleasant consequences of warming may again usurp the news and the political agenda. When this happens we will need the BBC's science programmes if we are to cope with the changes.

NO SCIENTIST anywhere can give a complete answer to a global problem. There are at least 30 kinds of biologist, each with a mutually incomprehensible babble. Scientists get to know about science outside their own expertise through newspaper articles, the *New Scientist* and especially the documentaries of the BBC. These alone are surely worth more than £20 million of cuts.

Science, like the arts and news, evolves. The past matters but mere regurgitation is no diet at all. We need the freshness of our radio and television. Let's keep the BBC as it is — it's worth far more than a tidy balance sheet.

James Lovelock is the author of the Gaia science books.

Which way will we really vote? Marketing experts, politicians and editors all want to know the answer



How former Tory stalwarts imagine the parties: left, Labour's brass-band, Lowry look is giving way to flowers and children singing; right, the Elgar-and-cricket Tories are merging into grey skies — and reptiles



Brass bands versus Elgar

Alan Mitchell on a new marketing approach to politics

Businesses spent an estimated £400 million on market research last year, in their attempts to understand consumer desires. The colour of a soap-powder packet, for example, can have dramatic effects on consumer buying patterns. One company learnt that what it thought was the bright and cheery golds and reds of its packaging had become associated with smoky downmarket pubs and was lowering sales accordingly.

When people are asked direct questions, they often give dishonest answers. So all sorts of seemingly bizarre techniques are used these days to tease out what people really think. For example, market researchers ask members of the public to project their feelings onto other people or other situations; or they may tap into people's sense of sight,

sound, smell and touch. By moving beyond the sphere of rational explanation, the researchers believe they can get a greater insight into what people really think of a brand. One such piece of research last week into the attitudes of wavering Tories suggests that Britain is on the brink of a political sea change. Yet, tantalisingly, it also suggests that Tory supporters have not yet gone over the edge; although they are on the verge of switching, there is still hesitation.

The research, by the advertising agency Barker & Ralston, used in-depth interviews to ask 20 once-stalwart Con-

servative voters in the Tory stronghold of Cheshire in the north to reveal what sensory images the rival political parties create. The sounds of Conservatism include classical music, "posh" voices, Elgar, leather on willow, and church bells (respondents' own words). The smells encompass polish, the inside of old churches, gin and tonic, red wine, sauce and tinned leather. The sights: country estates, city businessmen, public schools, London mews and country houses.

In stark contrast, when Tory

supporters listen to Labour they hear *The Internationale*, northern accents, brass bands and heckling. They see Lowry paintings, drab women not wearing make-up and rowdy bunches of young men. They smell perspiration, stale beer, smoky pubs, cheap perfume and factory oil. Everything they love and aspire to is in the first group; everything they hate and fear is in the second.

But new images are starting to disrupt this traditional, cosy split between the desirable and the undesirable. Tory voters are glimpsing some-

thing attractive in Labour and to sense things deeply unattractive about their own party. They are hearing a new and disturbing dimension to Conservatism: harsh voices, booing and jeering, whimpering and crying. They see "men entering themselves with poll-tax money", a puppet show, a rudderless boat, a grey day, a dark room with closed doors, a crack in the cone layer.

Next to the expected feelings of luxury and tweed, they are also touching something slippery, something limp, a rep-

tile, and over-ripe fruit. They are sensing rotten cabbage, bad eggs, over-cooked vegetables.

Labour is starting to smell of roses, as well as fresh orange, freshly baked bread, honey-suckle, lemon and home cooking. These Tories, who have never even considered voting Labour, when they think of Tony Blair's party, are imagining spring flowers growing, sunny days and children singing.

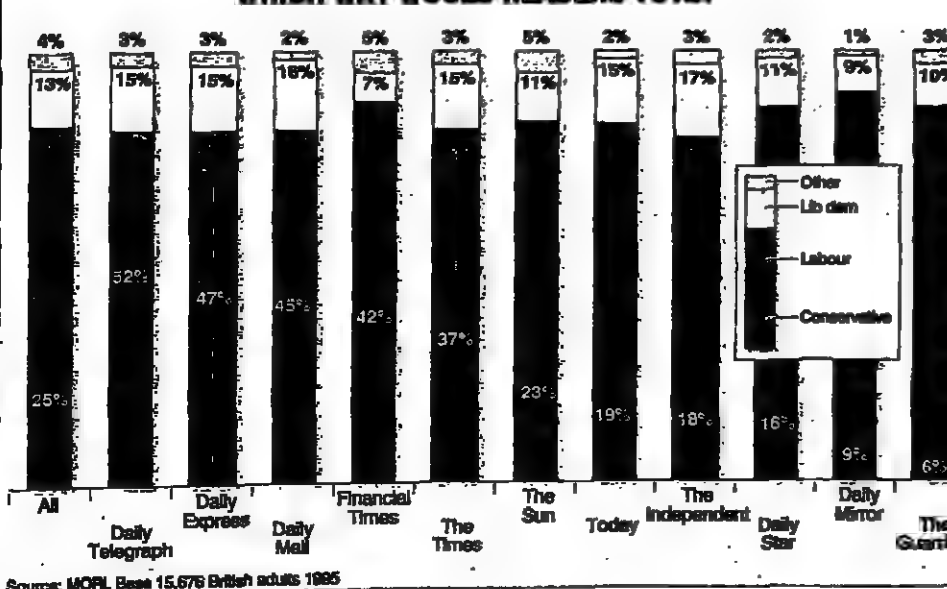
Phil Strongman, the researcher who conducted the interviews, says that for the first time in their lives, loyal Conservatives are prepared to listen to what Labour is say-

ing. "They have opened Labour's book," he says, "and they are beginning to read it."

Derek Ralston, the agency's managing director, is cautious: the overwhelming yearning, he says, is still for those good, old Tory values. And suspicion of Labour still runs high. The Tories may be a "Duracell battery rabbit" that's getting slower and slower (as one participant put it), but voting Labour would still be "like medicine. You have to take it against your will."

Tory voters' relationship with their party is, Mr Ralston suggests, now like that of a desperate parent and a disgraceful teenage child. "They are on the verge of kicking him out," he explains, "but they desperately do not want to. There is still an opportunity for him to apologise. But if he carries on as he has been, they are prepared to do it."

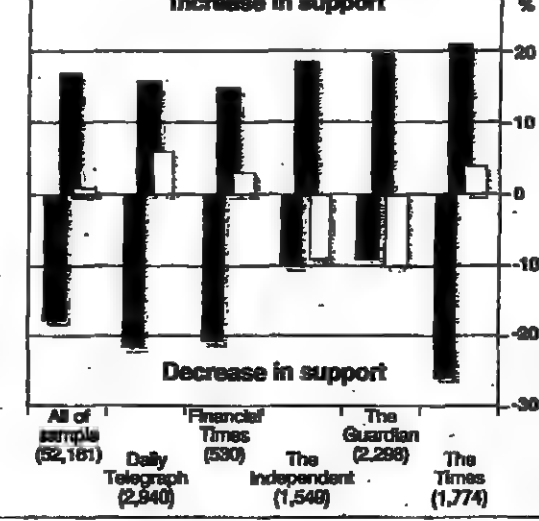
WHICH WAY WOULD READERS VOTE?



Source: MORI. Base: 15,676 British adults 1995

CHANGE SINCE 1992

Change of votes between 1992 election and average for 1994



Readers take a step to the left

Robert Worcester and Peter Riddell analyse the drop in Tory support among most newspaper readerships

John Major has good reason to be worried by the press. A new analysis by MORI shows that the largest drop in Tory support since the general election has occurred among readers of papers which are traditional allies of the party. Whatever their editorial views, no longer can they be regarded as the Tory press in terms of their readers' preferences. And Tony Blair has won the strong allegiance of readers of several papers.

The accompanying table (above, right) shows the change in support for each party among regular readers of the broadsheet dailies between the 1992 election and the average for 1994. Based on more than 50,000 interviews nationwide carried out for *The Times*, this provides a sufficiently large sample to represent some of the smaller circulation papers. The results are startling and consistent. The biggest drops in Tory support have been in right-of-

centre papers such as the *Daily Telegraph*, *Financial Times* and *The Times*. It has been the same story with the tabloids with above average declines in Tory support among readers of *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express*. Some of these papers have also been highly critical of the Government's record, particularly over Europe during the Maastricht saga two years ago. But the drop in Tory support was only slightly larger among readers of papers with more critical editorial lines such as the *Daily Mail* than among those of more loyal ones like the *Daily Express*.

There are big variations in the pattern of readerships among the broadsheets. The largest swing against the To-

ries, and in favour of Labour, has occurred among readers of *The Times*. According to the latest figures, for the first quarter of this year, 45 per cent of regular readers of *The Times* say they support Labour (against 15 per cent at the last election). This compares with 30 per cent backing Labour among regular readers of the *Daily Telegraph* (11 per cent in 1992). Backing for the Tories among readers of *The Times* has dropped from 64 to 37 per cent since 1992, and from 72 to 52 per cent for the *Daily Telegraph*.

The figures for *The Times* reflect a mixture of the changing views of regular readers and the impact of the big rise in circulation over the past 18 months since the price-cutting strategy was introduced. The MORI figures show that 80

per cent of readers of *The Times* are from the middle class (who now comprise 43 per cent of the public) while 52 per cent are aged under 35. By contrast, traditional centre-left papers, such as *The Guardian* and the *Daily Mirror*, have seen a smaller decline in Tory support among readers, though admittedly from a much lower base. The one exception is *Today*, where Tory support has dropped from 43 to 19 per cent among readers and backing for Labour has jumped from 31 to 64 per cent. Since the last election the paper's editorial direction has shifted towards Labour, and this has been reflected in the balance of its readership. It is striking how readers of *The Guardian* have become

much more supportive of Labour than the Liberal Democrats since the last general election. The figures for the first quarter show that 81 per cent of *Guardian* readers say they support Labour, against 55 per cent in 1992, while only 10 per cent back the Liberal Democrats, down from 25 per cent in 1992. This is well below the national average.

Readers of the *Independent* have also shifted towards Labour from both of the other main parties, particularly since the election of Tony Blair as party leader last July. Support for Labour has risen from 37 to 62 per cent. Although backing for the Liberal Democrats has dropped from 35 to 17 per cent over the period among its readers, this is still higher than the national average.

Robert Worcester is the founder and chairman of MORI and Peter Riddell is political columnist of *The Times*.

THE TIMES Your passport to Britain's treasures



Join *The Times* on a journey through five centuries of history this summer. From June to September, readers will be able to visit 100 historic sites in England, Scotland and Wales at bargain prices — just collect six tokens and send off for your *Times/NPI Treasures of Britain Passport*.

Production of the passport at participating sites entitles the holder to a range of concessions, including two tickets for the price of one at most properties and free entry to over 400 English Heritage properties on the weekend of June 3/4. With the passport you will receive a pocket guide to participating Historic Houses Association and English Heritage properties. You could for example, visit Forde Abbey, near Chard in Dorset, pictured above. The abbey was founded in 1140 as a monastery and converted to a house in the 17th century. Details of the offer appeared in Weekend last Saturday with an application form. Further details will appear on Saturday.



NEWS

Serb attack raises fear of all-out war

At least four people were killed and 120 wounded when Serb shells brought the threat of war back to the heart of Zagreb yesterday. The barrage came as Croatian tanks recaptured a strategically important town deep in Serb-held territory.

Air raid sirens sounded anew over Zagreb yesterday evening, prompting fears of further Serb reprisals and world leaders expressed alarm at the prospect of a full-scale Balkan war after the Croatian Government offensive. Pages 1, 14

Government U-turn over mortgage tax

More than two million homeowners were relieved after the Government was forced into a climbdown over its policy to tax mortgage protection insurance. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced that he would bring in new laws to exempt the policies from taxation. Page 1

Church assets halved

The Church of England's assets of £2.4 billion are to be halved to pay the burgeoning clergy pensions bill, church sources disclosed last night. Page 1

Channel 5 surprise

The battle for the control of Channel 5, Britain's next commercial terrestrial television station, took an unexpected twist when a little-known group put in the highest bid. Pages 1, 6

Gem discovery

The largest gem sapphire ever found in the British Isles, a 9.6 carat green-blue stone, has been discovered on a remote roadside on the island of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. Page 1

Burglary sweep

Police forces across southern England and Wales have begun their biggest offensive against burglars in an operation involving 5,000 officers who made more than 900 arrests. Page 2

'Doty' was guilty

Secret documents show that "Doty Dorothy" O'Grady was not the innocent Isle of Wight landlady she claimed but a dangerous Nazi agent. Page 3

Poisoned fruit

Some popular fruits and vegetables, including up to a quarter of lettuces, are contaminated with hazardous chemicals that breach government safety limits. Page 4

Couple caught out at crime conference

Television cameras caught out a pair of delegates attending a United Nations conference on crime prevention in Cairo. The pair were shown on giant consoles discreetly exchanging caresses. For other delegates, the problem has been more serious: a rash of petty thefts, with sneak thieves striking behind the backs of experts on crime. Page 14

Up to scratch

A new scratch card game with a top prize of £75,000 goes on sale today, the day after Camelot launched a second instant-win game as an apparent spoiler to the new scheme. Page 7

Charity demand

Charities want compensation from the Government for the estimated £57 million they claim they will lose as a result of the National Lottery. Page 7

Paper war goes on

Government efforts to justify using £12.25 million of National Lottery funds to purchase Sir Winston Churchill's papers for the nation have failed to convince former servicemen. Page 11

No Cuban refuge

Britain has announced that any Cuban boat people arriving in the Cayman Islands would be forcibly returned to Cuba unless they could prove they were political refugees. Page 12

Oklahoma arrests

FBI agents raided a Missouri motel at dawn and arrested two men in what appeared to be a breakthrough in the hunt for the Oklahoma City bombers. Page 13

Kaunda claim

Kenneth Kaunda, the former Zambian President, predicted "an explosion" there and called for early polls so he can run again for the leadership. Page 15



Lord Young left, who was appointed chairman of the London Philharmonic Trust, joins Sir Georg Solti at rehearsals yesterday

BUSINESS

Merchant banks: S G Warburg revealed that it had received an approach from Swiss Bank Corporation. Last year Warburg was targeted by the American giant, Morgan Stanley. Page 25

Nuclear: Executives of Scottish Nuclear were in London in a last-ditch effort to prevent the company from being privatised along with Nuclear Electric. Page 25

Economy: The Halifax Building Society reported that average house prices fell in April by 0.3 per cent to £62,300. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 27.8 points to close at 3,482.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 85.1 to 84.4 after a fall from \$1.6157 to \$1.6125 and from DM2.2478 to DM2.2164. Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: Michael Atherton, the England captain, scored 114 for Lancashire, who beat Warwickshire by 40 runs in the Benson and Hedges Cup. Page 48

Rugby Union: Tim Horan, who is recovering from a knee injury, was included in Australia's World Cup squad. Half of the squad played in the 1991 cup. Page 44

Commonwealth Games: The Commonwealth Games, which are being held in the first time since 1934 after Manchester was the only city to bid for the 2002 Games. Page 48

Rugby League: The Rugby Football League has ruled out a bid by Widnes to gain reinstatement to the Super League. It was cast out when the number of clubs was reduced from 14 to 12. Page 44

ARTS

Summer's finest: Critics in *The Times* choose the best films, theatre, music, opera, exhibitions and dance over the coming summer months. Page 33

Form of fine voices: At the Coliseum, English National Opera's revival of Verdi's *Force of Destiny* is notable for much spirited singing. Page 32

Prophets of gloom: "Cheer up, mate - your ticket might be invalid," said the security man as the crowds filed through to see the notoriously gloomy rock band, Tindersticks. Page 32

Master of movement: The quirky and popular French-Albanian choreographer Angelin Preljocaj is back in town for a Sadler's Wells season. Page 34

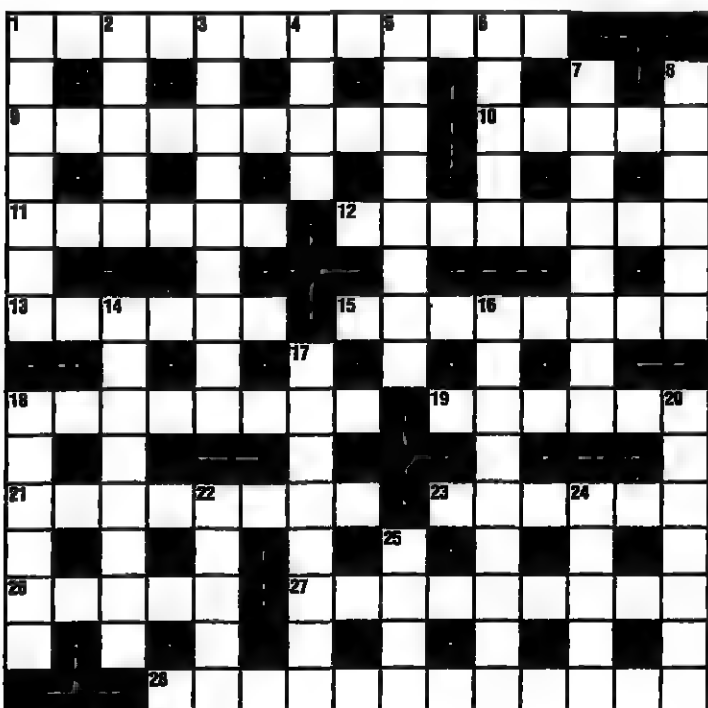
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES
WILD EAST
Geoff Brown on Tim Roth (far left) in *Little Odessa*, a gangster film with a twist

BODY AND MIND
The results of the most intensive study ever of the stress of war



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,845



ACROSS

- 1 Romantic adventurer near land in Kent but lacking energy (6,6).
- 9 Don't try so hard - it's vulgar (9).
- 10 It's hard when there's no employment in building (5).
- 11 A hen, say, is a pushover for these carnivores (6).
- 12 Sort of bronze that might be found in pieces (8).
- 13 Slightly leavened bread put outside university church - as a hint (6).
- 15 One comes down here to declare the runners (8).
- 18 Reserve needed - the match is even (3,5).
- 19 Schoolmaster, encircled by no parking, reversing into lock-up (6).
- 21 Tree on a rocky tor producing poison (8).
- 23 As an injured man might, lacking experience (6).
- 26 Excess of this is self-defeating (3).
- 27 He's a fool to put on the French spread (9).
- 28 Her entrée had to be battered thinly (4,3,5).

DOWN

- 1 Monarch abandons field marshal in the galley (7).
- 2 Go out with one's girl (5).
- 3 Is the chair her's to move? No, it's the High Priest's (9).
- 4 Told to handle some livestock (4).
- 5 God has appointed a Russian monk (8).
- 6 The prophet is hardly human (5).
- 7 Only "Hair" gets support (8).
- 8 Danced maybe when wound up (6).
- 14 Free-style skater is a star (8).
- 16 Steady soldiers in the army turn up out of the blue (9).
- 17 The sloth, for instance, of prime minister and cricketer (8).
- 18 After a sharp blow a man needs a bandage (6).
- 20 Whence came Morris's news (7).
- 22 Extract from an article (5).
- 24 If it's French it's taken to be unauthorised departure (5).
- 25 Silent god who put a spell on Brynhild (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,844



This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 21 per cent of the competitors at the 1995 York regional final of The Times Crossword Championship

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
East of London	702
West of London	703
North of London	704
South of London	705
West Midlands	706
East Midlands	707
North Midlands	708
South Midlands	709
West Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
North Midlands	712
South Midlands	713
West Midlands	714
East Midlands	715
North Midlands	716
South Midlands	717
West Midlands	718
East Midlands	719
North Midlands	720
South Midlands	721
West Midlands	722
East Midlands	723
North Midlands	724
South Midlands	725
West Midlands	726
East Midlands	727

Weathercast is charged at 30p per minute (cheaper rates) and 40p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & M25	731
East of London	732
West of London	733
North of London	734
South of London	735
West Midlands	736
East Midlands	737
North Midlands	738
South Midlands	739
West Midlands	740
East Midlands	741
North Midlands	742
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South Midlands	795
West Midlands	796
East Midlands	797
North Midlands	798
South Midlands	799
West Midlands	800

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheaper rates) and 40p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Kirose and Loughborough, 22°C (72°F); lowest day temp: Birmingham, 12°C (54°F); highest night temp: Kirose, 10°C (50°F); lowest night temp: Birmingham, 4°C (39°F)

WIND

Monday: Strongest wind: Kirose and Loughborough, 22 knots; lightest wind: Birmingham, 12 knots

HUMIDITY

Monday: Highest humidity: Kirose and Loughborough, 72%; lowest humidity: Birmingham, 54%

PRECIPITATION

Monday: Highest precipitation: Kirose and Loughborough, 22mm; lowest precipitation: Birmingham, 12mm

WIND DIRECTION

Monday: Strongest wind direction: Kirose and Loughborough, 22 knots; lightest wind direction: Birmingham, 12 knots

WIND SPEED

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FORECAST

General: after a misty start in places, England and Wales will have a dry, warm day with plenty of sunshine. Along the coasts, though, where there are likely to be sea breezes, it will be a little cooler.

Scotland: will be bright with sunny periods during the day. However, the far northwest is likely to be more cloudy with the chance of a little drizzle.

London, Midlands, Central N England: dry, warm and sunny. Wind south light to moderate. Max 23C (73F).

SE, Central S, SW England, Channel Isles: dry, warm and sunny, but cooler near the coast with sea breezes. Wind southeast becoming east light to moderate. Max 21C (70F).

E Anglia, E, NE England, Borders: dry, warm and sunny, but cooler near the coast with sea breezes. Wind south to southeast light to moderate. Max 21C (70F).

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	18	10	10	10
Edinburgh	12	10	10	10
Belfast	12	10	10	10
Cardiff	12	10	10	10
Manchester	12	10	10	10
Sheffield	12	10	10	10
Nottingham	12	10	10	10
Leeds	12	10	10	10
Birmingham	12	10	10	10
Coventry	12	10	10	10
Norwich	12	10	10	10
Exeter	12	10	10	10
Cardiff	12	10	10	10
Belfast	12	10	10	10
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London	12	10	10	10

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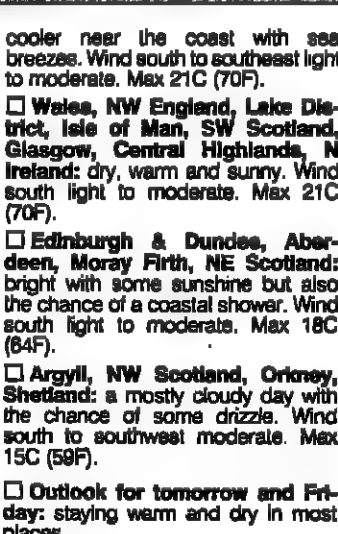
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NOON TODAY



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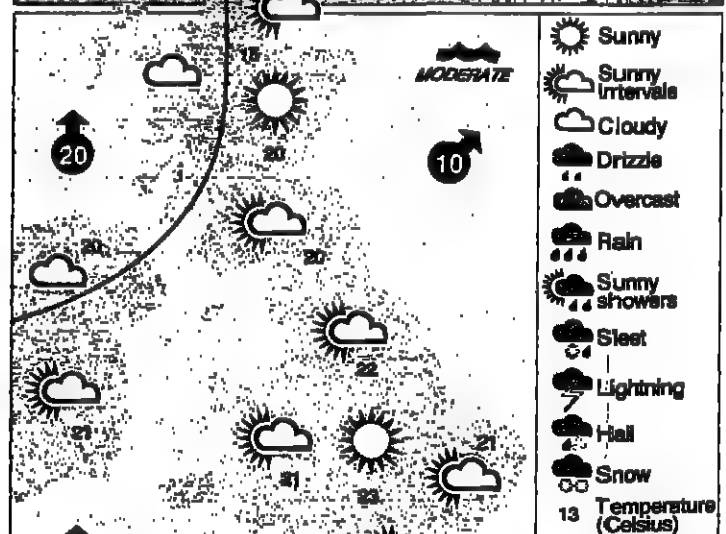
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NOON TODAY



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from extinction?



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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MAY 3 1995

BA remains Maurice Saatchi's favourite airline

By MELVYN MARCUS
CITY EDITOR

BRITISH AIRWAYS has abandoned its 12-year association with Saatchi & Saatchi and switched its lucrative advertising account to "New Saatchi", the breakaway agency founded by Maurice Saatchi.

The loss of British Airways, with annual billings of around \$125 million, is a serious blow for Saatchi & Saatchi, which has suffered a spate of client defections following

the ousting of Mr Saatchi, as chairman, last December.

Mr Saatchi was informed of the news by Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, and Robert Ayling, managing director, at the airline's West End offices yesterday afternoon. Sir Colin, a former marketing specialist, has taken a close interest in the two-month beauty parade. Indications are that the outcome proved a close run race between New Saatchi and Bartle Bogle Hegarty, renowned for its creative work for the likes of Coca-

Cola, Levi jeans and Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream. Old Saatchi, recently renamed Cordiant, and J Walter Thompson, an offshoot of WPP, were the other contenders. Mr Ayling said that the decision had proved "extremely difficult" and added that all the proposals were of "exceptional quality". Mr Saatchi said yesterday that he was "absolutely delighted" at the news.

Expectations are that Qantas, the Australian airline in which BA holds a 25 per cent stake, will announce a similar decision today

and switch its \$40 million international account out of Cordiant into New Saatchi.

Jennifer Laing, of Cordiant, said: "The loss of British Airways' business obviously comes as a great disappointment. Clearly we will need to balance the impact of this loss along side other recent business wins before coming to any final conclusion on whether we need to review staffing levels."

British Airways defection from Cordiant implies a loss of revenue of around £7 million. Other clients

that have switched from Old Saatchi to New Saatchi include Gallaher, Mirror Group Newspapers and Dixons.

Sir Colin strongly opposed Mr Saatchi's removal from Saatchi & Saatchi, the result of a power play masterminded by David Herro, a Chicago fund manager, and chief executive Charles Scott. In a letter to Mr Herro last December Sir Colin reiterated his views, already put to Sir Peter Walters, a non-executive director of Saatchi & Saatchi, that Mr Saatchi had been the "driving

force and key lynchpin" behind the two companies relationship. Against this background, BA's exit from Cordiant is hardly surprising. Similar warnings were issued to Mr Scott and his colleagues by John and Forrest Mars last year. In February, Mars duly withdrew its \$400 million account, implying a £30 million revenue loss for the agency.

Cordiant's share price, down from more than 150p in mid-December to 94p, may come under renewed pressure.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	
FT-SE 100	3248.2 (+27.8)
Yield	4.20%
FT-SE All share	1581.88 (+11.82)
Nikkei	17088.66 (+277.20)
New York	4316.78 (+0.88)
Dow Jones	513.84 (-0.42)
S&P Composite	513.84 (-0.42)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Long Bond	100 3/4%	(103 1/4%)
Yield	7.33%	(7.35%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt	103 1/4%	(103 1/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.6130*	(1.6188)
London	1.6127	(1.6181)
DM	2.2226	(2.2404)
FF	7.5400	(8.0080)
Sfr	1.5806	(1.6898)
Yen	134.89	(135.11)
£ Index	84.4	(85.1)

YEN & DOLLAR

London	1.5788*	(1.5808)
DM	4.5210*	(4.5545)
Sfr	1.1345*	(1.1462)
Yen	83.05*	(83.43)
£ Index	87.4	(87.7)

Tokyo close Yen 83.73

WORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul.)	618.05	(618.00)
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COMMODITIES

London close	6988.78	(6987.35)
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* denotes midday trading price

Warburg close to split in SBC deal

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SG WARBURG, the troubled City investment bank, is on the brink of break-up with the planned sale of its investment banking operations to Swiss Bank Corporation for an estimated £800 million.

The sale would not include its 75 per cent-owned Mercury Asset Management or SG Warburg Group, the holding company.

The sale of the investment banking business would leave SG Warburg with cash or shares in Swiss Bank Corporation (SBC) and its 75 per cent of MAM. A share distribution of some form to Warburg shareholders is more likely than a cash payment, to avoid capital gains tax.

In the short term, MAM will retain its independence, though it is not ruling out a sale in the longer term.

Warburg has suffered the defection of key staff and a lack of client confidence since its failed attempt to merge with Morgan Stanley, the US investment banking group five months ago. Those talks were scuppered in December by the objections of MAM.

Warburg has since been surrounded by bid speculation, which reached fever pitch yesterday, with rumours that it was planning a merger with Smith Barney, the US broker. That pushed Warburg's share price to a high for the year and forced it to make a statement about its talks with SBC.

Warburg shares closed last night at 82 1/2p, up 46p.

In its statement, Warburg said that it was evaluating an approach from SBC "which could result in a combination of their investment banking businesses within SBC". Combination would not involve MAM nor an offer for SG Warburg Group, it said.

With talks at an early stage, it is not yet clear whether the Warburg name will be kept. The banks hope to conclude talks by the end of the month.

The collapse of the Morgan Stanley talks pushed Warburg into crisis. After key staff left in February, Lord Cairns, the chief executive, resigned, the bank issued a profits warning, and Sir David Scholey, its

chairman, abandoned his retirement plans to head a new management committee.

Yesterday's announcement came as Warburg was thrown into chaos by the departure of its four most senior European equity staff to the rival Morgan Grenfell. They had been asked to delay resigning for a day, given the sensitive state of the SBC negotiations.

David Haysey, 38, co-head of European equities, becomes head of European equities at Morgan Grenfell; Joe Hall, 36, co-head of European equities, becomes head of European equity sales; Ian Wace, 32, head of European equity trading, takes the same job at Morgan Grenfell; and Mike Giedroyc, head of European equity research, keeps the same job title. Key members of their teams are expected to follow them.

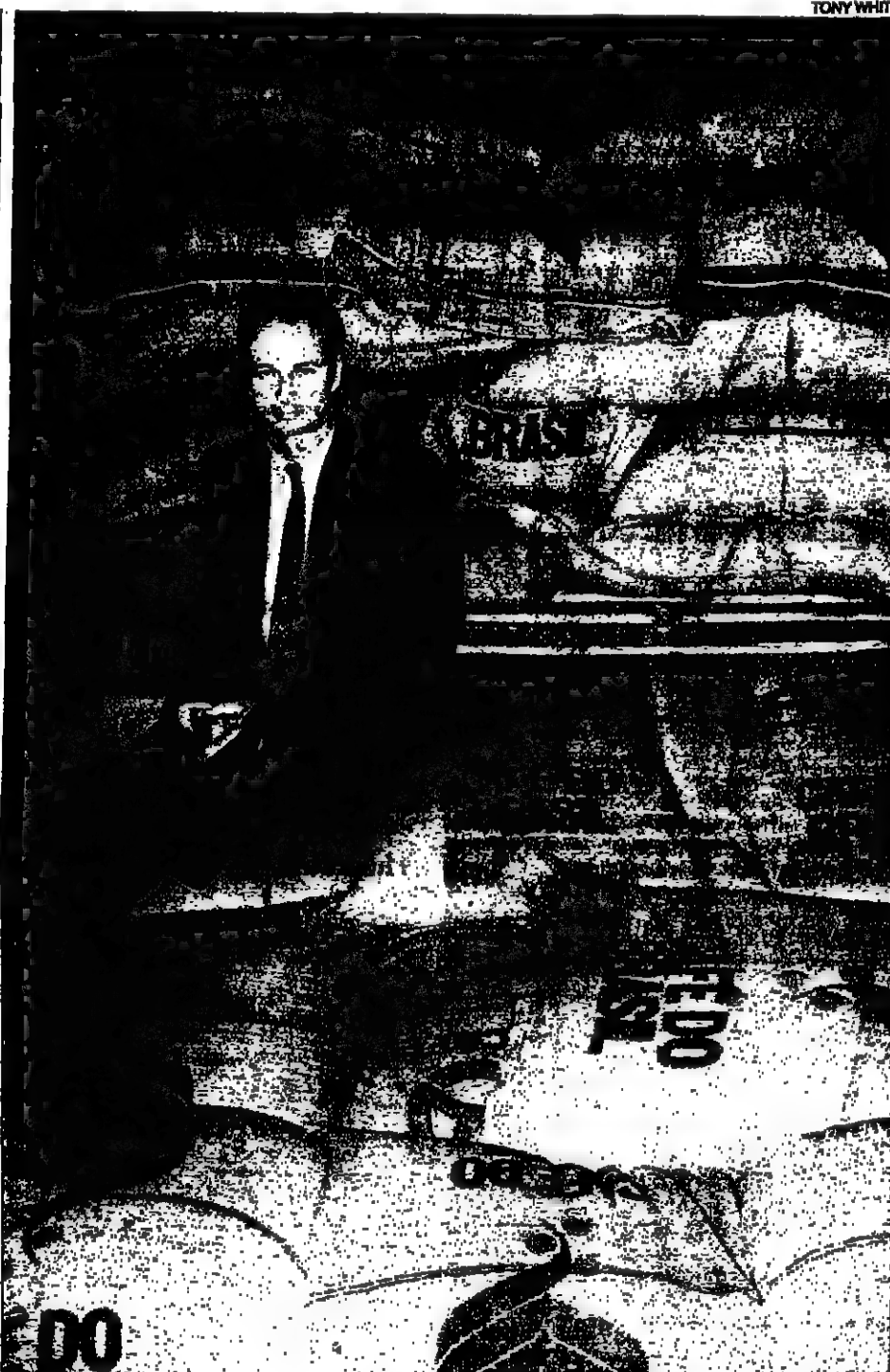
In the past three months, Morgan Grenfell, whose parent Deutsche Bank is building an integrated investment banking operation based in London, has wiped out Warburg's top equities team.

The four join their former Warburg colleagues Maurice Thompson and Michael Cohrs, joint heads of equity capital markets, whose departures to Morgan Grenfell threw Warburg into crisis in February. Mr Thompson and Mr Cohrs are building a new equities distribution business at Morgan Grenfell. They took eight members of their 30-strong team with them.

Mike Dobson, Morgan Grenfell chief executive, said the appointments were "a significant step in strengthening our existing businesses in Europe".

Warburg said that Stephen Carr, head of group research, and David Burnett, head of fixed interest and treasury operations, will become joint heads of European equities. Simon Ellen takes over fixed-interest and treasury operations, James Rothman and Andrew Tapper have been made joint heads of European equity sales, and Alan Broughton is to head European research.

Pennington, page 27
Stock Market, page 28



Gerald Maynard, chairman of Langdons Foods, supplier of tea and coffee to restaurants, which is to come to the market later this month through a placing and offer of 42.5 million shares at 3p. The company, which was founded in 1963, will be capitalised at £1.9 million.

Scottish HQ hint made in nuclear privatisation

By ERIC REGULY

EXECUTIVES of Scottish Nuclear were in London yesterday in a last-ditch effort to prevent the company from being privatised along with Nuclear Electric, its bigger rival in England and Wales.

The Scottish Office, meanwhile, wants the headquarters of the company that will hold Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear to be set up in Edinburgh after next year's £3.5 billion privatisation and has been seeking assurances that there will be no job losses.

Nuclear Electric, noting neither company would lose its operational headquarters, is said to be open to the idea of

an Edinburgh headquarters for the holding company. Rob-in Jeffrey, Scottish Nuclear's chief executive, is fighting an uphill battle. He said the company's chances of remaining independent are only "20 per cent, but growing".

The Cabinet is likely to release the long-awaited Nuclear Review, that will outline the Government's preferred course for privatisation, next week. The City thinks it is inevitable that the two companies will be privatised as a single entity.

Scottish Nuclear has presented the Government with a 16-page report, written by

Lazard Brothers, its financial adviser, that outlines the arguments for an independent flotation. It says the company's reactors are "extremely reliable", it has strong cash flow and profits and its sales contract is guaranteed until 2005.

But analysts say Scottish Nuclear, with only two plants, against the six that will be included in the Nuclear Electric sale, might be shunned by investors. If one of the plants has to shut down, even temporarily, the shares could collapse. "You could float it but you wouldn't get much for it because of the risk," said John Reynolds of James Capel.

Leeson could still be extradited to Britain

By ROBERT MILLER
AND DOMINIC KENNEDY



Leeson: accused

SENIOR officials at the Serious Fraud Office involved in the investigation into the collapse of Barings last night refused to rule out the possibility that Nick Leeson, the derivatives trader blamed for the failure of the 233-year-old merchant bank, could still be extradited to the UK.

He is already facing extradition proceedings by the Singapore authorities, in whose jurisdiction the derivatives trading took place. One SFO insider working on the Barings case said: "At the moment there is insufficient evidence to mount extradition proceedings for Mr Leeson. In order to do so there has to be enough evidence to charge a suspect and a

realistic prospect of securing a conviction. That is not the current situation, but it is possible that an extradition may be sought for Mr Leeson." The SFO has not yet interviewed Mr Leeson, who is being held in custody in Frankfurt's Hoechst prison.

As part of his stated wish to be brought back to the UK, Mr Leeson has turned down a request from Bank of England officials to help with their investigation unless he can return to Britain in order to do so.

Meanwhile, a German prosecutor said yesterday that enough evidence had already been produced to justify Mr Leeson's extradition to Singapore. The former Barings trader will remain in a Frankfurt prison for several months

while his lawyers fight to avoid trial by the island republic, where he could face 84 years' imprisonment. Singapore handed a 1,000-page extradition request to Germany last week, easily beating yesterday's deadline. Mr Leeson is now accused of 12 charges of forgery and cheating, each carrying seven years' imprisonment.

His British lawyer, Stephen Pollard of Kingsley Napley, said: "In England, assuming you were found guilty of them all, you would be likely to have concurrent sentences. That doesn't necessarily apply in Singapore." Forging a document is an offence in Germany and is punishable by more than a year in prison — two essential conditions under German law for an extradition.

Losing A Senior Secretary Is No Joke!

It's not funny...

...when you have to organise a busy diary...by yourself!

It's not amusing...

...when you miss Clients, because your temp doesn't know who they are!

It's not a laugh...

...to watch your letters tray getting fatter & fatter every day!

And it's certainly no joke...

...when you realise that you've not only lost an excellent team player, but a hardworking colleague, who understood your every move, the way you worked & someone who could truly represent you in your absence.

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Power users call for 2% cut in prices

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE heads of electricity consumer groups yesterday called for price cuts of about 2 per cent next year rather than a one-off rebate.

The chairmen's group of the Electricity Consumers' Committees, set up under privatisation to represent customers' interests, said customers had not yet benefited sufficiently from privatisation — and they criticised Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, for not being tough enough over prices.

The group backed Professor Littlechild's decision to review the electricity price formula — but urged him to adopt new controls which would transfer to customers some of the companies' capital assets.

In their first report, they made clear their strong opposition to a single rebate to customers, which they said would not satisfy the need for a better balance between investors and customers. But they said larger-than-expected assets and high profitability meant consumers now clearly expected a price cut in 1996 from the regulator's re-opening of his review.

Yvonne Constance, the group's chairman, said it

would expect to see a reduction in the base level of distribution prices of about 10 per cent, which would translate overall into a cut of about 2 per cent in final tariff prices. The group is pressing the regulator to adopt the "tough target" of an RPI-X pricing formula.

While the consumers' chairmen expressed confidence in the regulator, they noted his reopening of the price review. Mrs Constance said: "By the fact that he has had to review price controls again, it shows he was neither tough enough nor were we sceptical enough." Peter Weston, deputy chairman, said: "The benefits to shareholders have been far greater. Since privatisation share prices have risen dramatically and dividends have grown each year."

The consumers' chairman also welcomed the likely privatisation of the nuclear generating industry. Mrs Constance said: "If it improves competition, delivers greater efficiency and reduces prices we are wholly in favour of it." But they made it clear they would have preferred to see Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear kept separate.



Simply blooming: Jim Bone, left, managing director, and Robin Garland, chief executive of EFG, the Oxford garden centre group, saw pre-tax profits for the year to January 29 jump to £917,000 (£132,000). The dividend rises to 0.5p (0.1p).

Action plea on days lost by sickness

By Our Industrial Editor

BUSINESS was urged yesterday to take action aimed at reducing the number of people who suffer from ill health at work and to limit its economic loss.

Launching its biggest-ever campaign, the Health and Safety Executive, the Government's principal safety body, said campaign inspectors would be starting on a minimum of 600 in-depth visits to companies aimed at examining their records and performance on occupational health.

The three-year campaign, backed by leading industrialists and medical specialists. It is aimed directly at business — and especially small and medium-sized enterprises — with the aim of emphasising that in addition to complying with the law, there are substantial business benefits to improved health management. These include reduced sickness absence and pay costs, lower labour turnover, lower recruitment and training costs and increased productivity and product quality.

The HSE said there were now about 2.2 million people each year who suffered ill health caused or made worse by work. While the total number of accidents at work each year is about 1.5 million, the number of working days lost due to ill health was about 30 million.

Gehe wins battle to take over AAH

AAH, Britain's largest pharmaceutical wholesaler, lost its fight for independence yesterday when, in the closing hours, sufficient shareholders accepted a £400 million bid from Gehe, a German rival, to make the offer go unconditional. By the 1 pm deadline, shareholders representing 35.1 per cent of AAH's equity accepted the offer of 445p a share — increased from an opening offer of 420p. This, taken together with the 29.2 per cent already acquired in AAH since the offer was launched, raised Gehe's interest to 65 per cent.

Dieter Kammerer, chairman of Gehe's management board, said: "I am delighted that so many AAH shareholders have recognised the merits of the offer." AAH's management, led by chairman John Padovan, consistently argued that the offer undervalued the group as beneficiaries of a radical restructuring had still to feed through. Gehe, keen to break into the UK drugs market, timed its offer well. AAH has posted three profits warnings since last summer, the latest of which was in February.

Pay falls at Burmah

BOARDROOM pay at Burmah Castrol, the lubricants manufacturer, fell last year, with Jonathan Fry, chief executive, receiving £48,000, a reduction of £54,000 on the previous year in spite of a 21 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £219 million. Burmah's 10-strong board cost its shareholders £1.5 million before pension contributions, 20 per cent less than in 1993. The fall in Mr Fry's pay reflected a reduced bonus, which totalled £60,000 last year. However, his base salary rose 7 per cent to £345,000. The bonus is related to growth in earnings per share, up 20 per cent last year, after a 39 per cent rise in 1993.

Liffe leaps to record

THE London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) is seeking additional trading floor space, possibly at another site, in response to an increase in activity and another record year. Last year was Liffe's 12th successive year of volume records and its most successful to date. Volumes amounted to more than 153 million contracts traded, representing a 50 per cent increase over 1993. The financial surplus was £40.8 million last year. Nick Durlacher, who intends to retire as Liffe's chairman, said that while there had been a slow start to volumes in the current year, 1995 would be "a year of further achievement".

Compass buys in US

COMPASS GROUP, the catering to healthcare group, is further expanding its North American presence with the acquisition of Fluk International, a New York-based food service management company, for \$16 million. The purchase of Fluk, which had a total turnover of \$45 million in the year last June, comes a year after the group's \$450 million takeover of Canteen Corporation, the US catering company. Mike Bailey, chief executive of Compass's US catering operations, said the Fluk acquisition would bring a strong team of quality people experienced in meeting the needs of their specialised marketplace. *Tempus, page 28*

Payout boost at Carr's

A STRONG jump in sales helped Carr's Milling Industries, the Carlisle-based agribusiness, flour milling and baking group, to lift pre-tax profits by 17.8 per cent to £1.33 million in the 26 weeks to March 4. Turnover, boosted by good demand for farm machinery and a better than expected performance from the new joint venture bakery company, advanced by 33.2 per cent to £40.1 million. Ian Carr, chairman, said the group is expected to show further progress in the second half. This confidence is reflected in an increased interim dividend of 2p (1.2p), to be paid on June 16, from earnings ahead 15.1 per cent to 12.2p (10.6p) a share.

Coals from Cardiff

SOUTH WALES COAL is being exported once again from Cardiff docks after a break of five years. Tower Colliery, the pit that was bought by its miners last December, has broken into the export market and the first shipment destined for France left Cardiff this week. The miners, who have just signed a contract with British Steel to supply its Port Talbot and Llanwern plants, are also confident of making sales in Germany. They are particularly delighted to have been able to prove British Coal wrong, as British Coal closed the pit after alleging that there was no market for Tower's coal.

Lufthansa sale delay

PRIVATISATION of the German Government's remaining stake in Lufthansa will be delayed until next year. Originally planned for later this year the sale has run into legal difficulties over a requirement that the majority of shares has to remain in German hands. Matthias Wissmann, the German Transport Minister, has now proposed an employee buy-in scheme. He said: "The privatisation will go hand in hand with greater employee participation. A service provider like Lufthansa needs motivated employees." The Government holds 36 per cent of the shares, worth approximately £1 billion.

Swissair pact with Sabena

SWISSAIR will tomorrow start to form Europe's fourth-biggest airline with an agreement to take a 49.5 per cent stake in Sabena, the state-controlled Belgian airline.

The Swiss national carrier is expected to up its stake as soon as the European Union opens the way for non-EU airlines to gain control of EU carriers.

The Belgian Government, struggling with huge public sector debts, is selling part of its 62.5 per cent in Sabena. Air France, the troubled state-owned airline, and Belgian institutions are later expected to sell their joint 37.5 per cent of Sabena to the Swiss.

TOURIST RATES

	1994	1995
Australia \$	2.32	2.15
Austria Sch	16.82	15.32
Belgium Fr	48.25	44.58
Canada \$	2.02	1.93
Cyprus Cyp£	0.755	0.700
Denmark Kr	8.44	8.52
Finland Mk	7.47	7.79
France Fr	6.44	6.44
Germany Dm	2.40	2.19
Greece Dr	383.00	368.00
Hong Kong \$	13.12	12.12
Italy Lit	1,040	1,040
Israel	5.3048	4.9548
Japan Yen	2795.00	2640.00
Malta	145.20	135.00
Netherlands Gld	0.604	0.549
Norway Kr	10.07	9.87
Portugal Esc	248.00	230.50
S. Africa Rd	ref.	5.43
Spain Ptas	206.00	183.00
Sweden Kr	12.34	11.54
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.81
Turkey Lira	ref.	69926.0
USA \$	1.57	1.57

Notes: Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Profits up. Costs down.

Once again Scottish Nuclear, which generates around half of Scotland's electricity, is setting the standards for nuclear generation with record output, enhanced productivity and competitive costs.

In just four years, we have turned a loss of £33m into a profit of £150m. That's a dramatic improvement.

Output from our two nuclear power stations at Hunterston and Torness has risen by more than 38% since 1990.

What's more, unit generating costs fell to 2.2 pence per kilowatt hour, an achievement which three years ago people thought impossible!

	OUR KEY RESULTS				
	94/95	93/94	92/93	91/92	90/91
Output (TWh)	16.9	14.2	14.3	12.7	12.2
Unit Generating Cost (p/kWh)	2.2	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.3
Turnover (£m)	580	537	524	477	423
Profit/Loss (£m)	150	72	66	14	(33)

We are one of the largest companies in Scotland and employ highly qualified and skilled people. Our traditions of safety, engineering excellence and efficiency stretch back over 30 years, to the earliest days of the nuclear industry.

Everyone knows that competition generates success. Record results from the independent Scottish Nuclear speak for themselves!



Scottish Nuclear

If you would like further information, please contact Chrystall Macdonald, Corporate Communications Department, Scottish Nuclear Limited, 3 Redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride G74 5PR. Telephone 013552 62143.

مركزنا من الأصل

□ SG Warburg fate in SBC's hands □ Redirect excess power profits into energy conservation □ CanWest tops C5 bidding

The knackers' yard beckons

THE death throes of SG Warburg are truly distressing to watch. For someone who remembers the heady days after Big Bang in 1986, when SG Warburg was the ultimate mover in the City, arrogant, powerful and effective — it seems scarcely credible that the current management is leading the bank off to the corporate equivalent of the knackers' yard.

For that is what the latest talks with Swiss Bank Corporation amount to. SBC appears to be offering around £800 million for Warburg's troubled investment banking division. That would leave the group with little more than a large pile of cash and a 75 per cent stake in Mercury Asset Management, a business it no longer has effective management control over. Warburg's only logical move after selling its investment banking business to SBC would be to return the cash and MAM equity to its shareholders. The business so painstakingly built up by Sir Siegmund Warburg and his successors since the war would be boiled down for glue.

Unfortunately, Warburg's management now seem to have little choice but to take this drastic course of action. The aborted "merger" talks with Morgan Stanley last December have so damaged the firm's reputation that its ability to

remain independent in the long-term is gradually fading. The SG Warburg group is sitting on an investment banking business whose value is steadily dwindling as key staff defect and clients become disillusioned. Warburg still reigns supreme in terms of its client list and the volume of mergers and acquisitions business it conducts, but for how much longer?

Clearly the group needs to sell the investment banking business before its value becomes even more impaired. And the deadline for that is fast approaching. In two weeks time, Warburg staff will receive their annual bonuses. After the past year there is far less cash to go around, and Warburg is left with the unenviable alternatives of rewarding shareholders or staff. After bonus day, the trickle of departures could become a flood.

For SBC, this is a superb opportunity to buy what it has failed to build for itself. SBC has a powerful investment banking apparatus, with a clever derivatives team, but an embarrassing lack of blue chip clients. Only Trafalgar House has used SBC's

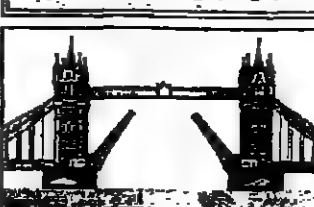
skills recently in its bid for Northern Electric, and that ended in a fracas with the target and the regulators.

Although the market values SG Warburg's investment banking business at just £613 million, Sir David Scholey, chairman, should not be allowed to sell the business to SBC on the cheap. SBC will try, claiming that loyalty bonuses to the staff it keeps and redundancy payments to the ones it doesn't will cost dear. Having failed to secure Warburg's future into the next century, Sir David owes it to his shareholders to ensure they get the best price for its remains.

Going green with envy

THE row over regional electricity utilities is really about profits, not prices. That offers a great opportunity to make a big push for energy conservation. But attitudes are so blinkered that the prospect of hefty savings in fossil fuel and air pollution is not seriously being considered. Few consumers on the domestic

PENNINGTON



tariff have been up in arms about charges and not that many about service standards. After Stephen Littlechild's summer price review, charges average about 6 per cent less than at privatisation, in real terms — very different from water.

The remaining four years of the price review have been torn up because of the munificent profits, dividends and cash flow oozing out of the twelve privatised companies, and crystallised when Northern Electric defended a takeover offer from Trafalgar House. Residential consumers and their representatives started complaining only when they saw how much shareholders were getting. Institutional investors call the

shots, so companies cannot share surpluses voluntarily with customers. The regulator must act.

Professor Littlechild should, however, look at alternatives to cutting prices. Only huge cuts in distribution charges have much effect on bills. And if that happened, the regulator would directly encourage higher electricity use. Yet in his earlier review of supply charges he allowed the companies to charge £100 million to fund conservation and energy efficiency measures. Meanwhile, taxpayers are forking up for subsidies to domestic energy-saving projects. This does not make sense.

The regulator should use the leeway in company finances to fulfil his obligations under privatisation laws to help consumers save electricity. That would probably have much more impact on their bills. Homes use too much power because energy-saving appliances — from freezers to lightbulbs — tend to cost much more initially than old energy-wasting devices.

The Government is incapable of integrating policies across departments. So is the Opposi-

tion, as Labour pronouncements show. The regulator has a duty to balance interests. He should take this chance to do so.

Outsider wins the Channel 5 stakes

IF the bookies win when all the favourites fall, then they were cleaning up last night after the Channel 5 sweepstakes. One much favoured horse, the Granada Group/BSkyB consortium, appears to have found the grass in the paddock more attractive than the rigours of the race course and put in a very low offer while making diffident noises about the real worth of the prize.

Two other horses ended in a scarcely believable dead heat. It is hard to credit that the offers from Virgin and the Pearson/MAI consortium were hatched independently, although it is even more difficult to see what benefit they might hope to gain from bidding identical amounts. Had they both won, it would have required the Independent Television Commission to run the race again in just ten plays.

The coincidence becomes even more bizarre when one realises that their bids will have had to be inflation-adjusted for the period to the first year of the franchise period, 1997, which suggests that both consortiums even used the same inflation model.

The race was won by a horse that until quite recently lacked a jockey. SelectTV was always going to join the Mirror Group/NBC player until the Americans decided Channel 5 was not worth its while and pulled out. At the same time, CanWest, industry rumour suggests, was desperately casting around for some input from a British production company.

The ITC must now decide if the CanWest bid meets the necessary quality requirements and is financially viable. To cast aside the top bidder for the second-ran would not be unprecedented: TVS Entertainment's application for the last ITV franchise was rejected, as was the top bidder for a national radio franchise. By an amusing irony, the successful second bidders in those cases were MAI and Virgin. But the betting must be that the CanWest bid will be deemed to have deep enough pockets to tough out the ten-year franchise period, even though they will be some way into it before they start to make an acceptable return from their surprising ten length victory.

Profit warning body blow to shares of Body Shop

By SARAH BAGNALL

SHARES of Body Shop fell 23p to 152p yesterday when the eco-friendly cosmetics retailer warned the City that profits growth was expected to be minimal in the current year.

The decline in the shares of Body Shop cut about £45 million off the company's stock market value, leaving it at £289 million.

Gordon Roddick, chairman, said: "Although it is still very early in our financial year, we do not anticipate much change in the level of pre-tax profit for this year." The warning prompted analysts to cut their forecasts for the current year by about £7 million to between a profit of £30 million and £34

million. The gloomy prediction reflects the company's decision to invest heavily in people to improve product development, marketing and retail skills. This, together with other initiatives, will add to the group's cost base, effectively eradicating any profit growth.

Rod Whitehead, an analyst at Goldman Sachs, said: "Body Shop have realised that they have a potentially major global personal care brand on their hands, but they don't have the management infrastructure to develop it. The key now is whether the investment in people pays off."

The profits warning came as Body Shop unveiled a 13 per

cent rise in profits to £33.5 million in the year to February 25. Retail sales rose 16 per cent to £500 million, while turnover advanced 12 per cent to £219.7 million.

During the year the group continued to expand, with 157 new store openings, taking its total to 1,210 in 45 countries. Sales by the new stores disguised a 3 per cent decline in like-for-like sales.

While Body Shop achieved significant sales growth in the Far East, analysts were concerned by a 3 per cent fall in like-for-like sales in the US, where the group faces tough competition from cosmetic rivals and Bath and Body Works, the rapidly expanding

joint venture between The Limited and Next.

Last year Body Shop opened 65 stores in the US, taking the total to 235, and has plans to open a further 40 in the current year.

In contrast, sales soared in Asia, particularly in Japan, where retail sales leapt 86 per cent and like-for-like sales rose 14 per cent. The group plans to accelerate its store openings in Japan, lifting the total to 60 by the end of the year.

The final dividend was lifted from 1.25p to 1.5p, making a total for the year of 2.4p, up from 2p last time. The dividend, due July 14, is being paid out of earnings of 11.5p a share, up from 10.1p last time.

Plea for more state spending

BIG construction companies call today for the Government to reverse planned cuts in infrastructure spending as evidence from civil engineering shows a marked slowdown in future workload (Philip Bassett writes).

In its latest quarterly survey, the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors says today that a sharp fall in invitations to tender for work takes the bid level to its lowest April level since the survey began in 1980.

John Hackett, the FCEC director-general, says that the "very worrying" fall in invitations to tender for work takes the bid level to its lowest April level since the survey began in 1980. He called on the Government to restore cuts in infrastructure spending "to help not just the civil engineering industry but all the users of Britain's transport infrastructure".

BSkyB profits double to £49m in first quarter

By MARTIN WALLER

THE number of subscribers to BSkyB, the satellite television operator that floated on the stock market last year, passed the four-million mark during the first three months of this year, traditionally a quiet period for satellite dish sales.

An upbeat trading statement from the company, an associate of News International, owner of The Times, looked to further rises in subscribers on the back of a spring marketing offensive and a new advertising campaign. The campaign coincides with the decision by a number of retailers to reduce the price of satellite dishes to below £100 for the first time.

BSkyB saw pre-tax profits in the first quarter double from £24.9 million to £49 million. Operating profits shot ahead by £18.7 million to £66.3



Chisholm: "strong growth"

million during the quarter, and the pre-tax figure was also helped by a £5.7 million reduction in interest payable following the flotation. Earnings per share advanced from 1.82p to 2.86p.

The third-quarter advance meant pre-tax profits for the

first nine months of BSkyB's financial year were ahead from £62.7 million to £104 million, while earnings per share were ahead from 4.57p to 6.38p.

Sam Chisholm, the chief executive and managing director, said: "Operating profits have risen substantially following the strong growth in subscribers in the pre-Christmas period."

Total paying subscribers reached 4.08 million on March 31, making a net increase in subscribers in the first quarter, historically a slow time of the year for new dish sales and cable connections, of 90,000, while over the nine-month period the total grew by 576,000.

Turnover for the nine months grew by 47 per cent to £565 million, 85 per cent of which came from subscriptions and 12 per cent from advertising revenue.



Gordon Roddick is paying the price for initiatives that have increased the cost base, eradicating profit growth

Pay settlements edge ahead in engineering

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PAY settlements in engineering are edging up, industry leaders say today in a move that may indicate continuing inflationary pressures from rising wage deals.

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will meet on Friday to consider whether to raise interest rates after signs of rising inflation. Analysts are expecting a half-point rise in rates.

Though most inflation push is coming from commodity prices, especially imports, economists have been concerned about pay deals, though the evidence is conflicting. Government figures for

risers in average earnings suggest some stability, but most independent pay analysts see signs of wages reflecting the jump in retail price inflation earlier this year.

In line with that, the latest figures on pay in a key sector of manufacturing industry indicate wage deals creeping upwards. The Engineering Employers Federation says that in the three months to the end of March, average settlements in the industry were just under 3 per cent. With the average overall for the three months at 2.98 per cent, the EEF says that in February the average was 3.35 per cent and in March 3.21 per cent.

TI faces complaint of overcharging in US

By MARTIN WALLER

TI GROUP, the diversified engineer, has received a formal complaint from the US Department of Justice over alleged overcharging for work by a subsidiary carried out on aircraft for the US Air Force over the past decade.

The 36-page complaint has been filed in the US courts. It arises under so-called US "whistle-blower" legislation, which allows any party alleging overcharging on government contracts to receive part of any proceeds arising from an investigation. Jeffrey Thistlethwaite, a UK citizen and a former employee of TI's Dowty Woodville Polymer, bought when TI acquired the

Dowty Group in 1992, has claimed a \$20 million overcharge on the supply of wing slot seals to the F-11 and B-1B programmes since 1984.

Tony Sumner, director of corporate affairs at TI, said: "We're still investigating what is an extremely complex complaint. Our view is that we've done some preliminary investigations. They have turned up no dishonest conduct by any employee."

TI says the alleged overcharging compares with a total value to the contracts being investigated of £29 million, and it is therefore hard to see how such an overcharge can arise.

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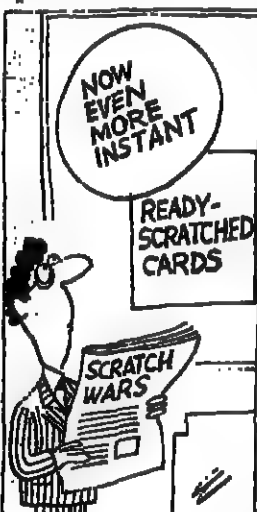
CITY DIARY

Battle plan for Bauman

ROBERT BAUMAN, the American executive who retired from SmithKline Beecham last April and became chairman of BAE, presides over his first BAE agm tomorrow. It promises to be the usual noisy affair. Outside the Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, an anti-BAE protest starts at 1pm, and the police have been advised. And inside at 2.30pm, when the AGM starts, there will be at least 30 members of the Campaign Against Arms Trade, who have each bought a token share, and who intend to berate BAE about the sale of Hawk ground attack aircraft to Indonesia. Bauman, middle name Patrice, has two options. Attack like a US general, or adopt the "flower power" concept of the 1960s, hand out orchids and disarm his critics. After all, Bauman is an accomplished orchid grower and in 1982 published the definitive book *Plants as Pets*.

Insolvency post

YOU could be forgiven for equating a CV with a career across your desk detailing involvement with Slater Walker, Johnson Matthey Bankers, Maxwell Communication and the restructuring of Heron International. However, those associations, and many more, have been career-enhancing for Colin Bird, 45, of Price Waterhouse. Bird has been made president of the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency.



Horse sense

WITH perfect timing, Richard Healey, former vice chairman of Hill Samuel, has jumped ship for Charterhouse, where he will strengthen the corporate finance team. The move will oblige Healey, one of Britain's best dressage riders, to take three months' paddock leave — just in time for the dressage season. This year he hopes for success on a horse called General Chaos — no reflection on his erstwhile clients.

Out the hat

TERRY BUCKLAND took early retirement two years ago from PDM, where he was dealing director, and left the City to run The Place, his own restaurant at Marden, Kent. Terry was back in town last week for Brian Winterlood's Christmas party. As chef's luck would have it, Terry won a raffle ticket — a dinner voucher for four at a Chez Gerard restaurant. He said: "I have every intention of using it — and enjoying it."

Game brains

THERE will be more brains than brawn when the "other" Rugby World Cup tour visits South Africa in June. Brian Moore, the England hooker, is backing the idea of the Cranfield University's School of Management which, in association with other world business schools, is sending out teams to play rugby in SA and work free of charge with small and medium-sized companies.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Dissolution of the monoliths rouses fears for land prices

The sale of old coalfields and barracks lacks strategy, says David Parsley



Peace dividend: the military is selling bases such as Greenham Common, Berkshire

Fifteen years of privatisations of state-owned monoliths have taken their toll on the land market, which must now absorb a further 150,000 acres of surplus land currently held by British Coal. A Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors report, to be published next month, says that the lack of an overall strategy for land disposal represents a major policy vacuum. The report sets out concerns about what the RICS describes as "a rushed sell-off of land", and outlines "fundamental problems" created by selling land not transferred to successor mining companies or to the coal authority.

The report says: "Far from fostering regeneration, there is a danger that larger scale, unplanned and unco-ordinated disposals will undermine local property markets, disrupt local economies and lead to derelict and degraded environments."

Such concerns mirror those expressed by the RICS in evidence to the Commons Defence Select Committee over the sale of decommissioned MoD land.

The Conservatives' privatisation drive has resulted in major land sales by privatised, and soon-to-be-privatised, organisations and government bodies. The RICS highlights the chaos that may result from this land coming onto a market that cannot absorb all of it at once.

Michael Pattison, the RICS chief executive, says that problems could arise because the Government has left each department to draw up its own disposal list.

After speaking to 11 departments, from the Department of Social Security to the Foreign Office, it was clear to him that many did not know who was overseeing the disposal operation or what it involved.

Seeking disposal figures also proved fruitless. Most departments did not know what was on their disposal list, let alone how much land they intended to sell. However, property experts believe that the disposals will involve hundreds of thousands of acres.

Mr Pattison has spoken to ministers to warn them of the risks of not having a disposal strategy and of a huge sale of public sector land distorting the market nationwide.

The Treasury dictates that, once on the market, government land should be sold within three years. Mr Pattison, however, believes this is an almost unworkable timescale given the amount of land being made available.

He sees the Ministry of Defence as one of the main causes for concern. The peace dividend resulting from the end of the Cold War means that many MoD sites are no longer in use: 88 army, navy and air force bases are up for grabs.

Over the past ten years, the

MoD has generated £787.4 million from land sales. Final figures for 1994-95 are not yet available, but receipts are expected to be about £65 million, and the MoD expects to raise a further £697 million through land sales by 2004.

The department is valuing the estate and is due to complete its investigations by the end of 1996. As a separate, but related, exercise, a new database is to be created containing a more detailed record of MoD property assets.

The Commons Defence Committee's first report on the defence estate, which was published last November, concludes that the three-year rule is not always adhered to. It says that the MoD, in some cases, will "wait until there is an upswing in the property market" before a site is sold.

Mr Pattison says: "There are three big MoD sites in East Anglia alone, for example, and the area would find it difficult to absorb one site, let alone three bombing onto the market at once."

Derek Fatchett, Labour defence spokesman, has aired his concerns to MoD ministers and believes that their response shows a determination to keep what little information they have out of the public domain.

"The MoD policy of land

disposal is confused and unclear," he says. "It seems that they only have a limited view in terms of awarding land to the highest bidder, which is not always in the best national interest."

In response, the MoD, one of the better informed departments, says that it has consulted local and district councils in all areas where it wants to sell sites and that it is taking advice from agents.

Brian Hurst, chief executive of the Defence Estate Organisation, a new body being set up to integrate the Defence Land Service and the Defence Works Service, was unable to comment due to security considerations, but a senior source in the DLS would comment.

"There is the Treasury's three-year rule," he said, "but clearly, there are circumstances in which they recognise that the process will take longer — perhaps in instances where planning permission takes a long time to obtain."

The Treasury also requires that any sale achieve the best value for the taxpayer. However, flooding the market with sites is unlikely to achieve this.

Some agents advising the MoD on disposals say that laws of supply and demand

show that if the market is oversupplied, the result is lower land value. "It's pretty straightforward economics, really," says one. "It is unlikely that some of this land will attract great demand, so inevitably prices will be forced down."

The DLS source concedes that values may be forced down, but argues that maintaining unused land also costs money. He says: "It can often be more expensive for the taxpayer to maintain the land than to sell it at a lower price. As far as the Treasury is concerned, a pound in the hand is worth ten notional pounds."

Grimley is acting for the MoD on sites including the Portland Naval Base in Dorset. Chris Parker, Grimley's national industrial partner, feels that the volume of land could cause problems.

"If it is not handled carefully, there is a danger that it could swamp the market," he says. "But recently the MoD have been more willing to listen to our advice and are becoming more market oriented, with proposals of joint ventures for sites."

The Department of Health says that it has "quite a substantial amount of land to be disposed of". Difficulties in selling it arise from the nature of

the sites and complications about ownership. "Disposal is not straightforward due to the health reforms," a department official said. The bulk of the estate is health authority buildings, such as ex-psychiatric hospitals, land in the green belt and listed buildings. That adds to the difficulties.

The health department does appear the most organised, having streamlined the system by taking disposal responsibility away from the 12 regional health authorities and putting it in the hands of eight executive offices, which oversee the strategy on a national scale.

The fact that there appears to be little or no consultation between government departments on disposals is another concern. Simon Pott, RICS president-elect, says: "We don't know what their policy is and we're concerned because we think they may not know either."

Mr Pott advocates the creation of a single body to oversee the Government's land disposal policy. "There is a very real need for central co-ordination to ensure there is no flooding in any one particular area," he says. "To put several sites on the market at the same time would be extremely unwise and create a quite extraordinary distortion of the market. And no one will thank the government for doing that."

"What we're saying is 'Watch it, boys, this is a market'."

Mr Pott suggests that this overall disposal management role could be played by the Property Advisers to the Civil Estate (Pace), the agency that is to take over from Property Holdings in April 1996. However, Neil Borrett, the Pace chief executive-designate and current director of Property Holdings, says that it is up to each individual department to form a disposal policy, and that Pace will play only an advisory role. "Our job will be to ensure that any land or property proposed for sale could not be of use to another department," he says. "We will give advice where necessary, but there will be no single body to oversee the operation."

The debate is at stalemate. The RICS wants to help and is advocating a national approach to an issue that it believes can only be dealt with on a national basis to avoid confusion. The Government disagrees, claiming their consultation with local authorities has been sufficient to avoid flooding the market. Agents just feel something needs to happen — if only to let those involved know what they are actually involved in.



Bankers shun risks but court disaster

In the last century bankers were fat men in silk hats, foreclosing on farms or running away with the savings of the poor. Plus ça change. Nowadays small businesses picket Barclays, and when Gordon Brown wants to rouse the rabble, he attacks the City. It may look similar — another long cycle? — but it is not the same. Bankers may have been rogues a century ago, but they were the men who took the risks, and so made fast growth possible. Today, for the most part, they are simply risk packagers, who break big risks down into small units and sell them to the unwary. This process, under the new name of financial devolution, was the theme of an important speech by Henry Kaufman, in Boston last week. His tone was surprisingly upbeat for a man known on Wall Street as Dr Doom.

He is strongly optimistic about the American economy, for a start, and sees the process as part of a broader picture which includes privatisation and securitisation, those horrible neologisms. Both governments and financial intermediaries are, as he sees it, backing away from promises they cannot hope to deliver except by luck, ranging from a prosperous retirement down through subsidised transport to such a modest offering as a superior return on long-term savings.

There is certainly an upside to this advance in realism. It should mean stable taxes, a more realistic approach to risk (risk management is now the top City skill) and less financial fragility. Bigger, stronger and more competitive banks should emerge, functioning increasingly as financial utilities rather than financiers. But this prophecy has a rather forbidding sound in a country where utilities are becoming known as bodies which offer bad service for excessive rewards.

There is more than one downside. There will be accidents on the way to this questionable Nirvana, Kaufman foresees a major challenge to financial regulation, as risk markets swiftly become sophisticated beyond the understanding of users.

He argues, too, that the ring-fencing of risk will encourage financial professionals to become even more short-termist than is already their habit. This will increase the volatility of asset prices. So, for that matter, will the growing tendency of fund managers to opt out of their last responsibilities. They may show a proper humility when they buy index-following funds, the ultimate cop-out, but by doing so they leave market values increasingly at the mercy of a handful of speculative investors who are prepared to expose themselves to risk.

It also leaves the financial system as a whole leaning heavily on what is not at first sight the strongest foundation: the nerve and patience of the small man, or of the funds which manage his savings for a fee. Dr Kaufman hardly flirted with the idea of a mutual fund panic, the nightmare that has haunted Wall Street as it watched the explosive growth of the funds in the last few years. But he did offer one cryptic warning: "Investors have ample alternative, and believe that their holdings in any market are quickly tradeable — a belief which has not tested well in the Mexican crisis."

That was a little local difficulty. What about a real dollar crisis, for example? Crashes are still possible in a devolved-risk market. Even if they don't happen, there is the loss of the feel-good factor. As financial security, like job security, fades into a golden past, the voters become nervous and critical. This is not entirely a bad thing. So far as the good feelings of the past were based on illusion, the new realism should encourage self-reliance and the work ethic. But it means that the new hostility to and suspicion of City people is likely not only to persist, but to grow. They may be more skilful at dodging risk, but they cannot dodge blame.

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Jon Ashworth passes on value-for-money advice

A book really worth consulting

The consultant sits before you, feet on the desk, hands behind head, drooping on about synergy and strategic focus. He looks the part, all bold stripes and daring tie, but you are not getting the answers you want. Slowly, you reach down and produce a slim, white book emblazoned with red letters. The consultant stops in mid-sentence. He knows that the game is up.

Well, maybe not. But anyone hiring a consultant for the first time could do worse than read *Managing Consultants* by Igor S. Popovich (Century, £17.99). It provides valuable ammunition for those who group the McKinseys and Bains of this world with vampires and Arthur Daley used-car salesmen.

Popovich provides a handy checklist to assist with vetting hopeful candidates. Seek references, for instance. Speak to former clients. Look for evidence that the consultant understands your business and has relevant qualifications and experience. "Don't be satisfied with vague, theoretical or future-oriented answers," says Popovich. "Ask for specific, experience-related examples from the consultant's past."

Research usually pays dividends. Don't assume that a big name guarantees results. Avoid consultants who bid routinely for every job that comes their way, and look for evidence of what Popovich wryly refers to as "small signs that mean big trouble" — dishonesty, lying, unethical behaviour, arrogance, aggressiveness, timidity, lack of drive or enthusiasm, emotional instability, a failure to follow instructions. Then comes the assessment



Arthur Daley: watch the paintwork

interview. Popovich says: "The biggest mistake you can make is to believe that, just because they charge a couple of hundred pounds per hour, all consultants are smart and competent."

They look smart. Suits, white shirts, latest fashion ties, leather briefcases, executive diaries, creamy, woodfree stationery, mobile telephones, plush offices, private secretaries, mini bars. They talk smart. Profit-loss ratios, empowerment, re-engineering, total quality management, positioning, marketing strategies, stock options, yields and bonds, just-in-time manufacturing. They charge smart, too. Billable hours, reimbursables, travel expenses, research expenses, progress payments.

Some of them, however, "are not as smart as they want you to believe. All this masquerade was specifically designed

with one aim in mind — to intimidate you". Beware, says Popovich, of consultants who are better talkers than doers.

Much of it comes down to turning the tables: make them squirm. A sudden and unexpected request can throw even the slickest consultant. "Many consultants have great difficulty saying a very simple single-syllable word — no." Fish for free advice before anything has been signed. Invite a consultant to your office, ask some general questions, then gradually start probing deeper. "Some consultants will swallow the bait and go to extreme lengths in explaining what they would do to solve your problem," says Popovich. "All you have to do is listen. Some more experienced consulting sharks will be suspicious and will limit their answers and statements to a bare minimum. They know that the first rule of clinching a deal is to leave clients wanting more."

Those who really dislike consultants will enjoy Popovich's tips on progress meetings. He says they should be kept standing up. Don't allow anyone to speak for more than two minutes at a time — use a stopwatch — and don't serve coffee. Popovich asserts that only about a third of consultants on the market are worth their salt. About 10 per cent are outstanding professionals. A further 20 per cent are competent and reliable, and the remainder run the gamut from acceptable mediocrity to gross incompetence.

And the best? They are like the used-car salesman who reveals dents in the bodywork. Popovich says: "The most believable consultants are those who admit their flaws, inadequacies and mistakes."

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995 LSE Company Price					1995 LSE Company Price					1995 LSE Company Price					1995 LSE Company Price				
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DANCE

Crazy name, crazy steps: Angelin Preljocaj brings his award-winning choreography back to Sadler's Wells



THEATRE

Obsessive passions constrained in a seedy motel: Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love* returns to London

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

Why so churlish, Manchester? The crowds stay away from Yan Pascal Tortelier's superb French concerts



VISUAL ART

... but a coup for Liverpool as the Walker Gallery secures a major retrospective of Maurice Denis's art

DANCE: How a stormy petrel came to rule the roost in two countries; the poetry of love spoilt by the spoken word

New way to pronounce success

It may lose him jobs, but the Albanian-born choreographer Angelin Preljocaj remains true to his lights — and those lights will soon be going up in London again, John Percival reports

That bloke with the unpronounceable name is how one arts editor describes choreographer Angelin Preljocaj. Not too unpronounceable, though, if you speak in the French way (Prel-jho-caj), although the name itself is Albanian. At least it is distinctive — as are the man and his works. He returns to London next week, only a few months after his last, Olivier-nominated Sadler's Wells season, so he must be getting things right.

Last autumn Preljocaj had problems. Invited to take charge of the French Ballet du Nord, he had turned down an offer to become joint director of London Contemporary Dance Theatre, only to find that the good folk of the Lille Agglomération decided, on second thoughts, to go for someone more conventional. But that is now resolved. His company, enlarged from 14 dancers to 20, has a permanent base at exactly the opposite end of France, in Chateaufort on the Mediterranean coast.

With the official designation Ballet National Contemporain de Toulon, Preljocaj can use his extra dancers not just for occasional larger productions, but to maintain a presence at home while the main group is touring. They take dance into all the schools and communities of the area: a way of developing the audience of the future which he describes with great enthusiasm.

All of Preljocaj's life seems to have been a process of exploration. He was born in France but his parents were already expecting him when they fled from Albania for political reasons, clambering through the mountains into Yugoslavia. In exile, they wanted to keep their home culture, so Preljocaj

grew up influenced by a land he had never seen. A kind of imaginary exile, he says.

He never saw Albania until last year, when he went with his company and his parents. But before that, his heritage had already shaped his much acclaimed staging of *Noëls*. This came about because, listening to Stravinsky's music, he felt "a strange connection" between it and a traditional Albanian wedding he had attended in Paris. "It's almost like a rape: the boy's family virtually kidnaps the bride and carries her to him." The contrast within the music attracted him: "What you hear sounds wild and uncontrolled, but the score is mathematically worked out."

Preljocaj began learning ballet at the age of about ten, and says he has "never left it completely — I still train for the exercise". But when he met people from modern dance, "I discovered new territory for exploration". So he studied with Karin

Wahner, a former dancer with Mary Wigman's German company. Her expressionist style "really gave me a feeling of dance". Next came the almost obligatory tasting of American influences, but not only the abstract style of Merce Cunningham in New York. Preljocaj added the "more crazy" influence of Viola Farber, who was then at the French Contemporary Dance Centre in Angers.

His professional career began as a dancer in Dominique Bagouet's company. After two years, he and another of the dancers, Michel Kelenner, jointly made their choreographic debut by creating a duet, *Aventures Coloniales*. The work was performed at the 1984 Montpellier Festival, with such success that they were asked to repeat it for the inauguration of the

Théâtre Contemporain de Danse in Paris. Before the year was out Preljocaj had formed his own company. Two of his first three works for the company won prizes, which helped. They were seen in London, but on an inadequate stage, at the 1986 Dance Umbrella, and the later, highly erotic *Liquors de Chair* was a hit at Riverside Studios in 1989.

Nowadays Preljocaj's choreography is in demand for other leading companies: Lyons, for instance, and even the Paris Opera. *Le Parc*, his evening-long Mozart ballet for the latter's company, was so much liked last year that it will be revived next season. He enjoyed the experience because, he says, "I like to meet other people, other styles. I find new energy — and it's good for my dancers because I learn different ways to organise and make things better for them."

The Opera also asked him for a season by his own company, for which it commissioned his modern version of *le Spectre de la Rose*. To bring "my little company into this incredible old building with its famous history" was



Traité d'Union, choreographed by Angelin Preljocaj to music by Marc Khanne, is one of the pieces Ballet Preljocaj will present during its Sadler's Wells season

Théâtre Contemporain de Danse in Paris.

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already disconcerting: to be asked for *Spectre* even more so. But, to his surprise, he found that he enjoyed working on it.

"I started to examine the theme, the two worlds of dream and reality inhabited by this girl who had come from a ball. I wanted to see if I could transform reality and dream, and put them both in the same space. It becomes almost like zapping, when you watch two programmes on television and every minute you change because you think you're missing something on the other side."

What comes next? A collaboration with Pascal Quignard, who wrote the film *Tous les matins du monde*. He is providing a libretto for *La voix perdue*. "I want to do a story, but not in the way of the past, not in a narrative way," Preljocaj says. "I want to avoid theatre. I tell my dancers just do the movement, don't try to play like an actor. I just want to get inspiration from the libretto, to push myself out of comfortable ways and be challenged."

● Ballet Preljocaj is at Sadler's Wells (0171 713 6000), May 9-14

Pendulum and the pits

NOW in the London week of its tour, Yolande Snaith's *Swinger* is a nice idea. Shame about her choice of text, though. Everyone loves a love story, but why recite large extracts from Roland Barthes's *A Lover's Discourse*? Anyone who analyses love so cerebrally, so narcissistically, so self-importantly, must be a very poor lover.

Poor Hassani Shapi has been allocated the task of uttering the words: it is not his fault if he sounds trite and annoying.

Otherwise Snaith orchestrates the diverse constituents of her piece with skill and intricacy. Robert Innes-Hopkins has built an intriguing, handsome set with furniture that tilts at disconcerting angles

Yolande Snaith The Place

the characters' own passionate impulses. A giant pendulum hangs over the centre and swings like a heartbeat or a faithful arm signalling instability and change. Pushed by Shapi into violent arcs, it can mark the brusque end of a relationship or herald emotional tumult, the figures of the four dancers lurching chaotically.

Snaith's choreography is mostly a series of duets full of ingeniously interlocking shapes and lifts that an effective, nostalgic soundtrack by David Coulter and Graeme Miller. She has tried to hint at

the different sensibility of each couple — romantic ecstasy, tense lust or painful jealousy. More contrast would have been better, though, and the repeated swinging phrases become monotonous in the end.

Everything swings in *Swinger*, but not in the narrow vernacular sense of the word. The characters are not middle-aged would-be trendies. Epitomised by Shapi, who moves as well as speaks, they shift from hope to torment and on to loneliness again.

Snaith's piece represents a new direction: less eccentric, without the obsessive, arbitrary use of props of her previous work, for which I am grateful.

NADINE MEISNER

MIDLAND BANK SEASON

Coppélia

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mixed programme
THEME AND VARIATIONS
PILLAR OF FIRE
New Production
LE TRICORNE
New Production
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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Covent Garden

Testament to Denis

VISUAL ART:
Liverpool stages
an important
show of works
by an under-
rated genius



Unseen out of Russia: Denis's *Martha and Mary* (1896)

In 1913 Maurice Denis made one of the great definitive statements of modern art when he wrote "A picture — before being a war-horse, a female nude or some little anecdote — is essentially a flat surface covered with colours arranged in a certain order."

It sounds like a rationale for abstract art, but Denis himself could hardly have been further from abstraction. He was a symbolist and a mystic, intent on leading his canvases with significance. Although he was a contemporary and friend of Bonnard and Vuillard, he is little known in Britain — partly, perhaps, because of a built-in national mistrust of a certain kind of lushly sentimental late 19th-century French religiosity. If he were a composer, Denis would come somewhere between Franck and Messiaen, except that his painting is seldom if ever grandiose. A more fitting parallel would probably be with Fauré's *Requiem*, which exhibits just the same combination of sweetness, clarity and unsentimentality that one finds in the most characteristic paintings of Denis.

Given the unfamiliarity, it is remarkably enterprising of the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool to have collaborated with the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lyons, the Walraf-

Richartz Museum in Cologne and the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam in staging a major Denis retrospective. The pictures included come from far and wide, including a group, long unseen in the West, from the Hermitage in St Petersburg, sold almost as soon as painted (1899-1912) to the Schukin brothers, the great Russian collectors of advanced French art.

One of these pictures in particular, *Visitation*, offers a vital clue to Denis's method. It shows two standing women in profile facing each other, with a scene glimpsed through a garden trellis beyond and between them. They are wearing, for the 1890s, modern dress, and there is nothing specifically religious about either of them, not even necessarily the hands of the figure to the right, clasped as if in prayer. And yet the overtone of an annunciation are unmistakable, and significantly the picture was one of a series painted while Denis's wife

Marthe was expecting their first child. The "symbolism" of Denis's work is often of this order. Little is tied to a particular set of literary significances: nearly everything comes through echoes, resonances and associations which may exist in spectators' minds without their ever being totally convinced that these were consciously intended by the artist. And ultimately, as Denis himself pointed out, this does not matter, because the picture is first and foremost an arrangement of shapes and colours, which should be satisfying initially on the level of pure abstraction.

Whatever their apparent subject matter — whether with clear Christian reference, or domestic in a way which might have some New Testament connotations, or purely legendary or landscape — a Denis is instantly recognisable as such by its pellucid colour, its elegant repose, its delicacy and sureness of touch. This is a decorative painting in the best possible sense of the term, complex but not complicated.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

● Maurice Denis (1870-1943) is at the Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street, Liverpool (0151-207 0001) until June 18

WHILE the Royal Court stages *Sympatico*, Sam Shepard's first full-scale play in almost a decade, the Border Crossings Theatre Company is reviving *Fool for Love* on the fringe.

Shepard's drama of obsessive, damaged passion, fought out in a run-down motel room, is brilliantly bold but a tricky theatrical customer. Michael Walling's production needs more grimy claustrophobia and does not always veer firmly enough between the desperately grunting and the darkly comic Miles Harvey's lasso-looping Eddie, returning obsessively to May after months of abandonment, tears on sentimentality or Way-Out-West melodrama without showing his tongue distinctly enough in his cheek.

However, a clear flash of laughter greeted his nth re-entrance: moments after storming out supposedly for good, on hearing May is seeing another guy, he strolls back in, pointedly polishing a shotgun. Harvey is rather too

Heat off the boil

THEATRE
Fool for Love
Old Red Lion, NI

healthily strapping to play Eddie, the dilapidated cowboy, "aged long before his time". His attacks of boyish antics, throwing himself into handstands against the wall, suggest Eddie's mental instability but do seem contrived. However, the action bursts into gripping violence as he brawls with May in the half-dark and pins her to the floor in a moment of acute mutual desire.

Maria Gough's pale-faced May can hit raw nerves. Slumped on the narrow bed, motionless and silent at Eddie's return, she starts into sudden life, clasping him with a vicious desperate love, and as quickly lurching away from him in screaming hatred, smelling another woman on him.

Martin, May's innocently lumbering date, walks into the battle and becomes the bemused victim of the lovers' entangled lies and truths as they tell and retell their family histories. Martin Head, at once absurd and endearing, finely combines the slow-witted and the sweet-hearted. Philip O'Brien is consummately seedy — pitiful but not comfortably sympathetic — as the mysterious Old Man. He watches, silently glugging Jack Daniels from a polystyrene cup, then, like a memory, addresses Eddie and May from within their pained imaginations.

KATE BASSETT

Audiences decline to Fauré

"FAURÉ and the French Connection" has most of what a great festival should have: an expertly designed programme of events, with performers chosen specifically for their sympathy with the purpose behind it.

The problem — and it would probably have been no different in France if anyone had had the courage to mount a similarly ambitious Fauré anniversary celebration — is that it has attracted less than the required audience to the concerts which cost most to present.

A programme including Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* and Tzigane together with Saint-Saëns's *Danse macabre* ought to have sold well, in spite of the presence of less familiar, al-

FESTIVAL
BBC PO/Tortelier
Free Trade Hall,
Manchester

though unthreatening, items like Chabrier's *Suite pastorale*, Chausson's *Poème* and Fauré's *Ballade* in F sharp. And if it had, Yan Pascal Tortelier's interpretation of the Second Suite from *Daphnis et Chloé*, where he drew the BBC Philharmonic into a thoroughly reckless account of the *Danse générale*, would have inspired a large-scale demonstration. It was all the more effective

at the end of a concert which had confided so much intimacy — in the *Poème*, where the violin soloist, Raphael Oleg, was as thoughtful as he was athletic in *Tzigane*, and in the *Ballade*, where Kathryn Stott once again demonstrated her understanding of the central Fauré paradox of evasive harmonies underlying a seductive melodic line.

After the *Ballade*, the *Danse macabre* was pure Grand Guignol. Before it, Chabrier's *Suite pastorale* had given a good idea of the extremes, of delicately impressionist poetry on the one hand and of unreserved vitality on the other, that the concert was about to embrace.

GERALD LARNER

Period façades can hide startling extensions and modern interiors. Claire Pilton reports

Step through the keyhole

Building new and modern extensions on to period properties is a sensitive issue, but when done well they can work both practically and aesthetically.

Aside from the physical restrictions imposed by space, obtaining planning permission for what the authorities — and your neighbours — deem a suitably sympathetic and unobtrusive extension is a tricky and time-consuming process involving many months of negotiations and equally lengthy periods of strictly monitored building work.

Take, for example, a Grade II listed house in Wilton Place, London SW1. The property is the key house in the terrace and was built in 1827.

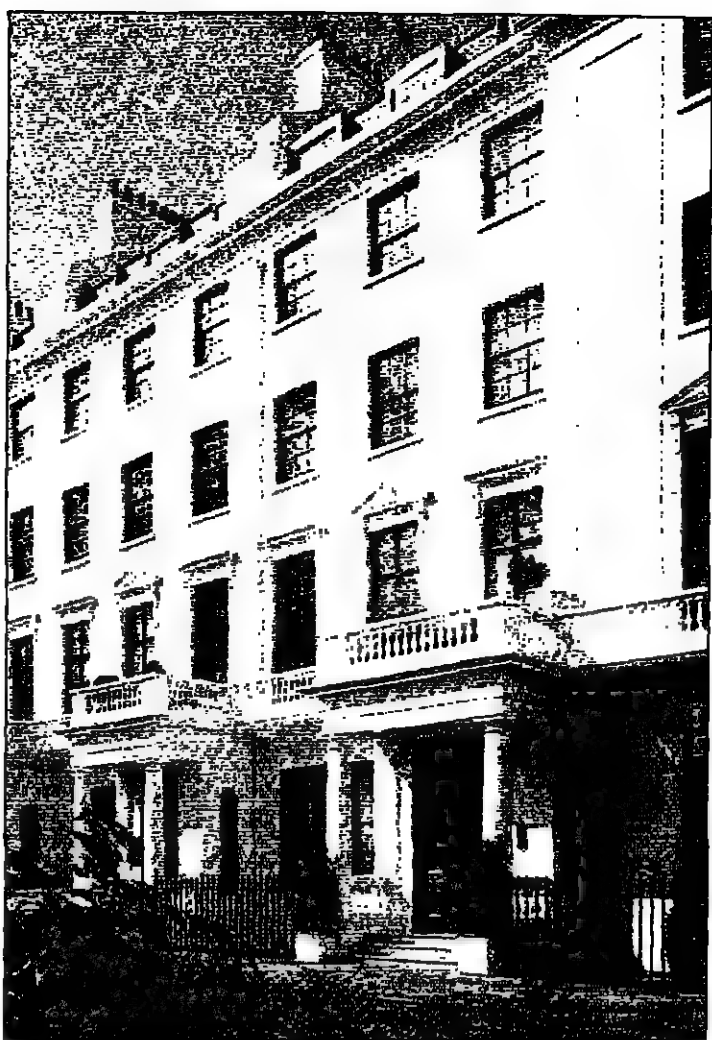
Renovations began early in 1993 — after numerous discussions with Westminster Council, the Grosvenor Estate and English Heritage — and took over a year to complete (only the front and rear elevations and part of the staircase remained untouched), followed by a further six months on the interior.

At the rear of the house, what was once a yard and lightwell with storage vaults and a back room has been transformed into a 22ft by 16ft swimming pool complete with jet sauna, shower and lavatory, and a light, airy atrium.

A modern spiral staircase leads up to a most attractive open-plan breakfast-cum-family room at ground level, with a kitchen beyond where the absence of windows has been compensated for by a huge domed skylight. Most of the window apertures on the front façade are not in keeping with the terrace but "were probably enlarged in the 1930s in the days before planning permission was needed", says the owner.

The house, which spans six storeys and offers three reception rooms, six bedrooms and en-suite bathrooms and staff quarters, is for sale on a 75-year lease through Aylesford and Russell Simpson for £2.85 million.

An unusual three-bedroom apartment in Hyde Park Square, Bayswater, dates from the 1890s but was redeveloped behind the original façade ten years ago. The flat was bought in 1987 by the present owners who, with their Belgian interior decorator, spent nearly a year creating a modern, simplistic interior. Lassmans is seeking £960,000 for the 99-year leasehold.



Behind this classic façade in Hyde Park Square is a modern three-bedroom, three-bathroom, three-reception room apartment

Another "improved" property, this time in Grove End Road in London's St John's Wood, was last sold in 1990 for around £1.5 million. The present owner subsequently gained permission and employed architect Dirk Meyer to refurbish, extend and substantially rebuild this Georgian style two-storey 1920s residence at a cost of more than £500,000.

Extending to 5,400sq ft the accommodation now includes three reception rooms, five bedrooms, four bathrooms and a self-contained two-bedroom, two-bathroom guest apartment, a double garage, a carriage driveway for six cars and planning approval for a pool in the rear garden.

This property was first marketed at the end of 1992 for £2.5 million — complete with custom-built furniture, fixtures and fittings. The owner has now decided to reduce the price to £2.25 million, but excluding furniture and fixtures (through Aston Chase and Saville). This is a more appetising price, given that the house next door which is smaller and unmodernised, with a tapering garden, has just come on to the market (through Aston Chase and Knight Frank & Rutley) at £1.65 million.

A far cry from most family homes is the unexpectedly Oriental flavour found in Abingdon Villas, Kensington. Here Chesterton Residential is selling a stucco-fronted,



end-of-terrace, three to four-bedroom house complete with a garage and a Japanese south-facing roof terrace for £795,000 freehold.

It is design, together with the modern Oriental staircase and master bedroom suite, featuring a futon bed, Japanese floor lanterns and rice matting, reflects the romantic associations of the owners, Anton Mosimann, the chef, and his wife, who first met in Japan. The kitchen is well planned and well equipped to cater for the owners' Oriental tastes, including even a built-in gas-fired wok.

Another vendor with catering inclinations is Bertil Nygren, a

former owner of 47 Park Street, who has recently turned his hand to residential development with 20 Park Street, W1. Built in 1896, and converted into offices in the late 1940s, this Grade II listed property has now reverted to a substantial 8,500sq ft Mayfair residence with six double en-suite bedrooms.

An international high-tech infrastructure and what Mr Nygren describes as "an over-specified interior" includes concealed trunking and ducting, under-floor heating, thermo-static shower and bath taps, £150,000 worth of plumbing, and a hot water system bigger than his hotel hot water system.

Wetherell and Lord Francis Russell & Co are selling it for £4.9 million.

Saving the village from extinction

Builder's scheme aims to stop commuters destroying country communities

Ken Linfoot is a speculative builder, not a social historian. Yet he believes that "villages or retired townsfolk are little more than museums. They have no organic life left in them."

He is therefore pioneering a scheme to prevent the slide of rural villages into suburban oblivion. Great Alne in Warwickshire is the site of his first social experiment, and the resulting visually agreeable, but unremarkable, cluster of modern houses near the village pub, the school and the recreation fields is made up of "executive" and "affordable" housing.

Integration of this kind came about because he had bought a piece of land adjoining a smaller parcel, owned by the Church of England, which wanted the land used for a social housing programme.

During three years of negotiation between the Diocesan Authority, the Stratford-on-Avon District Council, the Warwickshire Rural Housing Association, the Great Alne Parish Council and Linfoot Country Homes, a scheme evolved which ensured that a local farm worker can live in a £40,000 two-bedroom house in the same close as an architect in a four-bedroom house worth £135,000.

Mr Linfoot says: "We have used the same building materials and the same detailing whether the houses are affordable or open market." The Stratford planning office has called the scheme "a unique example of public and

private sector co-operation. The developer was not seeking to obtain planning consent for speculative housing, but offered a genuine opportunity to provide a scheme for local people."

Affordable housing describes a legal device enabling a housing association to retain ownership of the land, while selling the bricks and mortar as leasehold property. Thus, with the expensive land element removed from the price, a home that would cost £60,000 on the freehold market can be sold for £40,000.

If people in affordable housing cannot raise enough money to buy the whole property initially, housing associations allow them to buy a proportion of it until their incomes improve.

As a speculative builder, Mr Linfoot makes a profit from open market housing, but operates as a contractor for the authorities on the affordable housing side. He promotes both types of property in the same sales literature for the Great Alne development.

But will it remain an isolated experiment in integration? Mr Linfoot says: "There has to be a will to keep villages as organic entities. Attractive villages are being taken over by outsiders with money and local people are being forced out by inflated prices. I have a couple of schemes similar to Great Alne in the pipeline, but they will need very careful discussion."

MICHAEL DINEEN

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MARKET MOVES

£20 million sale to EMI

□ TUCAN Investments, a subsidiary of General Mediterranean Holdings, has sold Glacier House, Brook Green, London W6, to EMI after last year letting it to EMI Records as its London headquarters.

The freehold property, sold for £20.2 million, provides about 80,000 sq ft of air-conditioned accommodation. Glacier House was completed at the end of 1993, and includes two unusual gardens, one internally on the ground floor, and a second at first floor level.

□ ROYAL London Insurance has launched a campaign to secure a pie-let for its 100,000 sq ft corporate headquarters office development at One Sovereign Street, Leeds.

The development will have a completion value of more than £30 million, with an expected rental value of around £2.5 a sq ft. The highly specified building was designed by EPR Architects and the letting agents are DTZ Debenham Thorpe and Peter Lund & Partners.

□ SEARS Property Development has bought the 123 acre Ransomes Euro Retail Park in Ipswich for more than £6 million. The site has been awarded detailed planning consent for a retail warehouse park covering 145,000 sq ft, and Sears has secured several pre-lettings including MFI, Kingsbury Cantors, Allied Carpets, Maples and Olympus Sportsworld.

The construction of the park is due to begin in June this year, and it is scheduled to open for trading before Easter 1996. Jones Lang Wootton and Moore Hunter are the joint letting agents for the scheme.

□ MEPC has let the first floor of 11 St James's Square, London SW1, which adjoins its own headquarters in the square, to Transmedia which has taken the 1,460 sq ft space to add to the other two floors it already occupies in the building.

The premises have been let at £7.50 a sq ft with a rent-free period of four months, making an improvement in rentals in the area.

Christopher Warman on the dilemma of counties trying to meet business needs and safeguard the countryside

A last look before the bulldozers move in

With its rolling hills, handsome old town centres, acres of meadows and ancient woods, Gloucestershire might have seemed safe from the concrete spread of the late 20th century. Not so — even Cheltenham and the Forest of Dean are now being eyed by developers.

Today, in the presence of the Duke of Gloucester, the Gloucestershire Development Agency is presenting a portfolio of sites for investment and development at its launch in London of a campaign to show what the county can offer.

The launch comes as a quarterly survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) this week offers evidence of industrial recovery. A third of the chartered surveyors who took part in the survey were more confident in the industrial-occupier market at the end of the quarter, compared with half that number the previous quarter.

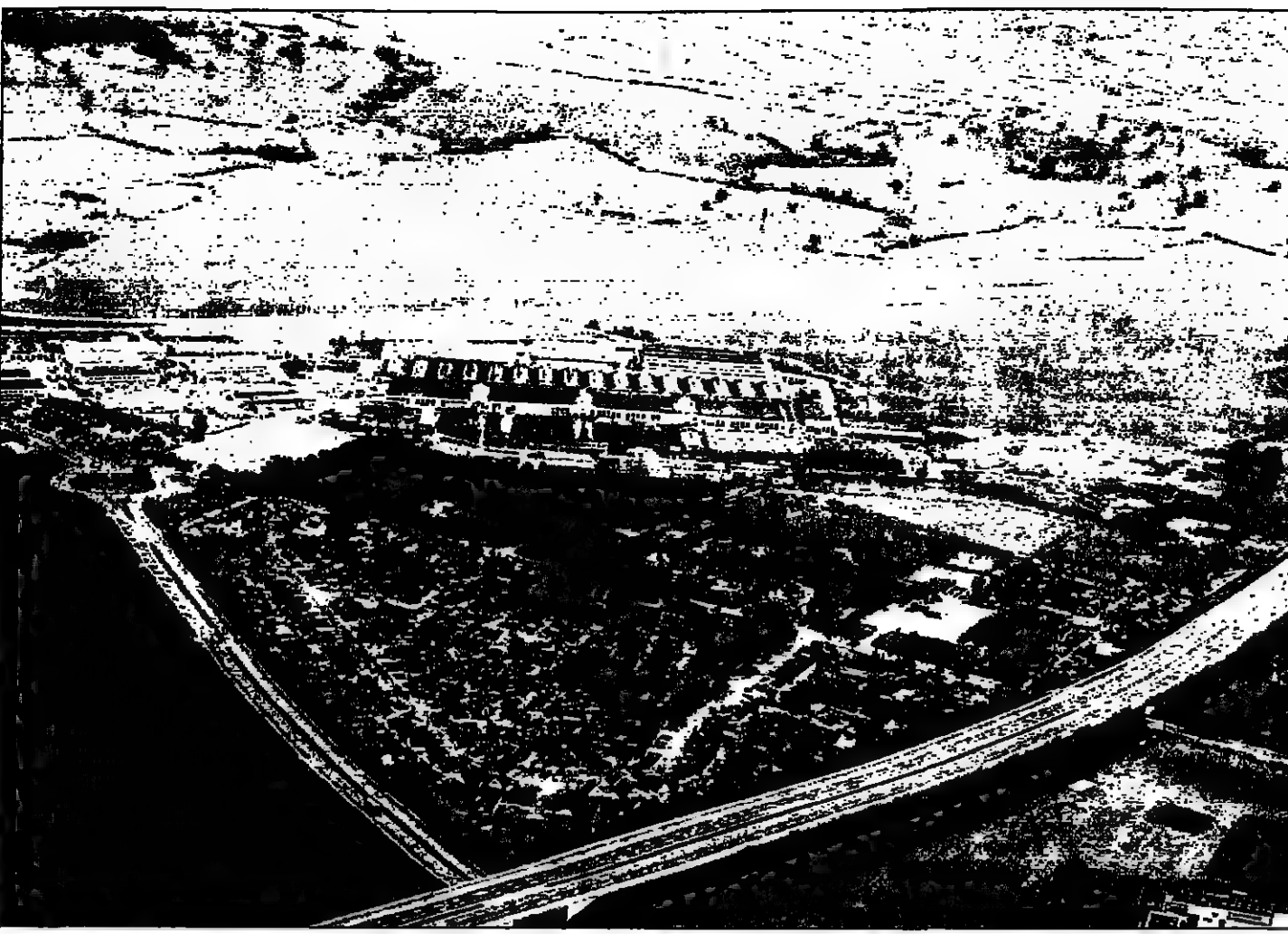
In Gloucestershire, one of the key schemes is the business park being developed by Arlington at the former trading estate and airfield adjacent to the M5 near Gloucester. The park, now undergoing the final planning process for 280 acres, will eventually become, at about 4.5 million sq ft, one of the largest mixed-use developments in the UK, employing 15,000 people over the next 10 to 15 years. It will include a mixture of offices, light industrial and distribution space, and also amenities such as a hotel and leisure facilities.

Royal Crescent, the former St James Station land, and an area leading to the gasworks and the main railway line. A new inner ringroad at the back of the St James's site will incorporate the area within the main town centre.

Development is also proceeding in the previously green areas of the Forest of Dean. At Quedgeley, an area of 450 acres, with four outlying sites, will form the basis of the county's strategic development plan for the year 2000.

The development of Gloucestershire is dependent largely on the M5, which runs through the length of the county. The development agency, a partnership between the county council, training and enterprise council and private-sector companies, is selling the advantage of the motorway for the access of goods and staff, as well as offering the partnership between public and private sectors, a skilled workforce, and the quality of life within the county as reasons why companies should consider moving there.

Developers and investors are



An aerial view of the proposed site for a 280-acre Gloucester business park, to be built on the old trading estate and airfield

aware of the available pool of skilled labour. When companies tried to go to Gloucestershire in the 1980s they could not find local people to fill jobs. Reductions in staff as a result of the recession and the loss of defence industry jobs have now resulted in a level of

unemployment previously unknown within the county.

Gloucestershire Development Agency realises it is having to deal both with tradition and, more importantly, a popular view that development is not welcome in the royal county.

The message that the Duke of Gloucester and others are putting forward today is that Gloucestershire is "ready and open for business". Gloucestershire no longer has the "full" signs up, and may, as a result of government rationalisation of the defence industries,

present a further fillip to the recovering property sector.

The RICS survey showed confidence was particularly high in East Anglia, the East Midlands and the South West, where activity in manufacturing, distribution and warehousing has led to more development.

New life for Great Eastern?



THE GREAT Eastern Hotel in the City of London, pictured left — the only hotel within the City's square mile — is for sale on a 125-year lease by Railtrack Property, writes Christopher Warman.

The building, next to Liverpool Street station and the Broadgate complex, needs an internal refurbishment which could transform it into a four or five-star hotel.

An important example of Victorian railway architecture, the Grade II listed hotel was built in

Railtrack seeks refurbishment for Victorian hotel

Anglo-French Renaissance style in 1884 for the Great Eastern Railway, with imposing Doric columns at the main entrance and semicircular arched arcading in the main hall and stairwell. The hotel has 163 bedrooms, 13

conference rooms, banqueting facilities, a restaurant, three bars and two lounges.

Bob Hill, property director of Railtrack, says: "Once redeveloped into a first-class hotel, the Great Eastern will attract strong demand from business travellers, conference organisers and the leisure market. Railtrack is keen to ensure that a sympathetic redevelopment is carried out."

The building is being marketed through Colliers Erdman Lewis.

Michael Pattison, chief executive of the RICS, says: "Manufacturing output saw substantial growth last year, which has fed through to increase confidence in the industry property market. With the devalued pound and Britain's major trading partners coming out of recession, this has increased demand for British-made goods, with the result that more firms are finding themselves working at full capacity."

The RICS survey clearly indicates that more firms are deciding to invest, not only in plant and machinery, but also in their buildings."

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TODAY: English for 14-year-olds — what the examiners are looking for, and why spelling and grammar matter

A language worth knowing

Pupils sitting English tests for 14-year-olds, starting on Friday, will want to do their best. But no matter how rich their seam of natural talent, examination success is impossible without vigorous preparation. Some people argue that there is no point in revising for an English test, but here is some advice to help to ensure that your marks do you justice.

■ Make sure you have looked through some past papers. This will help you to feel comfortable about the structure of the tests and confident that they will not throw up unexpected styles of question. You might have written a lot of stories and diary entries in English classes over the last three years. But for example, how would you respond if you were asked to write a newspaper article during the examination? This style of writing requires you to give a lot of information very quickly. Remember the Five Ws — who, what, why, where and when? Any article that answers these questions cannot be very far wrong.

■ Both the English language papers (that is Paper 1 and, if you are taking it, the Extension Paper) have extracts you will need to read. Make sure you read the passages thoroughly — at least twice and preferably three times — and be clear in your own mind exactly what the question is. Take the time

to make notes on your exam paper. Don't hesitate to underline things that jump off the page at you. If your neighbour starts writing one minute after the exam has started, just remember, she has no idea what she's doing! So sit back, keep calm and prepare properly.

■ The questions can be long and confusing, and they often carry a lot of marks. If a question carries 20 marks and asks you to comment on three different sections of a passage, each section will realise six or seven marks. For example, if you are asked to comment on a girl's feelings towards her home, family and situation, you must make at least a couple of points about each to get full marks. If you organise yourself thoroughly before answering each question you will be successful. Remember that every second counts!

■ There is nothing more disconcerting in an examination than hearing your neighbour keep asking for extra paper. But remember, it is quality and not quantity that gains marks. Do not be put off if someone is writing 16 to the dozen while you are still thinking. There are no marks for nonsense.

■ Like it or not, the creative essay section is a chance for you to spread your wings and express yourself. But please be original! Try to write from your own experience: there is nothing worse than reading a story set in the mafia underworld of New

Nicholas Patterson gives some tips on how to prepare for the English paper



York by a 14-year-old who has never left Essex. Also, do not score a last-minute winner at Wembley for your Sunday League team, or be President of the Planet Bong waging war against the Masters of the Universe. And never have a story that ends "and then I woke up" — it is guaranteed to send examiners to sleep.

■ Quality means attention to detail. Make sure you read your work through and check back for errors. A paragraph may be only one line

long; however, if all your paragraphs are one line long, you are probably doing something wrong. Revise all your grammar. Do not make silly spelling mistakes — know the difference between there/their/they're, to/too/two, off/off. Know that "could have" is never "could of". Know how to use the apostrophe. Know how to punctuate speech accurately and when to use a capital letter.

■ You may find that some instructions are not clear. You may ask the teacher invigilating your examination to help. It may sound stupid to ask, but you will look more stupid if you do the wrong thing and get no marks as a consequence.

■ You will probably be revising your Shakespeare play at the moment. Double-check which scene you will be writing about. Although you should have finished your revision long before the exam, re-read the scenes the night before to refresh your memory. During the test, re-read the scene, think about the answer and write a brief essay plan. Feel free to make notes on the test paper — ignore any teacher who tells you not to. When you have finished, check your answer. Make sure, above all, that you have answered the question.

■ Pay attention to Shakespeare's language — it is very different from today's. Make sure you recognise the difference between poetry and prose and look carefully

at the imagery Shakespeare uses.

■ Make sure you understand the structure of the questions. They are there to help, not to confuse you. Each question will have a series of prompts to help your answer get from A to Z. If you address each of these you will have provided a full answer.

■ Last year the marks scheme allowed teachers to give high marks only to pupils who used quotations. This is a most important lesson: if you want to get full marks you must support every point you make with an example from the passage.

■ Finally, do not lose sleep over the tests. They are not the be-all and end-all. No sensible school will set you for your GCSEs on your results alone. When you sit down for your first paper, try to enjoy it.

● The author is a senior English teacher at The Bishop's Stortford High School, Hertfordshire.

TOMORROW

Advice on next week's tests for 14-year-olds in mathematics. Plus

Friday: science
Next week: how to prepare for the first tests for 11-year-olds



The new RSC Romeo and Juliet, Zubin Varla and Lucy Whybrow

PUPILS will sit a 75-minute Shakespeare test on Friday afternoon about a specified scene they have studied this year from either *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar* or *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Last summer's scene from *Romeo and Juliet* was the couple's suicide (act 5 scene 3, lines 1-170). Pupils were asked to choose some moments of drama and show how the tension and excitement build up to the tragic climax of Juliet's death. They were asked to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the play and express their ideas. They were asked to think about where the scene was set; how the characters' language showed their feelings; how the audience might respond; and about Juliet's last words and actions.

To reach level 6, the standard expected of a good candidate, the

examiners wanted an answer that recognised there was a climax, tried to explain why and showed how the tension builds. For example, pupils might follow the sequence of Romeo's actions and speech from his entry to the point when he sees Juliet. Alternatively, they might detail the various features of the opening that create a frightening atmosphere, such as the graveyard, torches, secrecy, and the emotional level of Paris's speech. Pupils were expected to show insight about the emotions of the characters. They might detail the impact of events on the audience — noting how they share the excitement and tension of the opening, react favourably to Paris's sadness, react to the deaths with pity and, in the case of Juliet, because they know she is not dead, helplessness.

BEN PRESTON

COMPREHENSION

COMPREHENSION questions which assess pupils' understanding of set passages form the bulk of Friday morning's 90-minute English paper. Last summer pupils were given a 400-word newspaper article about school bullying. They were asked to consider how successful the article would be in encouraging parents to combat bullying. They were asked to explain three pieces of advice given in the article, and comment on whether parents would find the ideas sensible and how the writer expressed them.

Examiners wanted to see that pupils could: select and convey relevant points from the text in their own words; explain opin-

ions and insights; recognise methods used to inform and persuade in newspaper articles; note how the tone of the article was tailored to the intended audience; illustrate answers with textual references.

Pupils were expected to agree or disagree with ideas in the article with reference to their own experience. Better answers noted some of the following: the use of anecdotes to shock; the use of statistics to sound reliable; the use of "we" and "us" to identify with the reader; the use of direct questions to win the reader's attention; the challenging headline and progression of ideas.

BEN PRESTON

CREATING WRITING

A THIRD of the marks in the first English paper will be awarded for a half-hour essay on one of three topics. Last year, two of the options involved developing the themes of the comprehension passages, while the third asked candidates to write about an incident in which they were blamed for something they had not done.

Examiners were looking for writing that would "engage and sustain the interest of the reader", with events and ideas structured in such a way as to make the meaning clear. Pupils were expected to sustain a style and write accurately.

To reach the lowest level (3), writing had to relate to the topic

with some description of character or setting and recognition of feelings. Sentence structure could be simple but punctuation had to be correct. More orderly writing with an effective conclusion, some detail, more complex sentences and an awareness of paragraphs merited level 4.

Those of average ability were allowed some errors as long as they attempted more complex writing and a wider range of vocabulary. Examiners were looking for register and style in level 5, with correct punctuation and paragraphs. At the next level, punctuation would clarify meaning, while paragraphs would be used to organise ideas in a piece of writing which

developed character and settings. To achieve top marks (level 7), candidates had to write confidently in an appropriate style, producing a convincing response to their chosen question. Grammar and vocabulary had to be used accurately to enhance the effectiveness of the writing.

Spelling and handwriting contributed up to five marks out of the 30 awarded for the essay. Correct spelling of simple words in legible handwriting was the least expected, ranging through more complex words for average pupils, to a maximum score for more specialised vocabulary in good handwriting.

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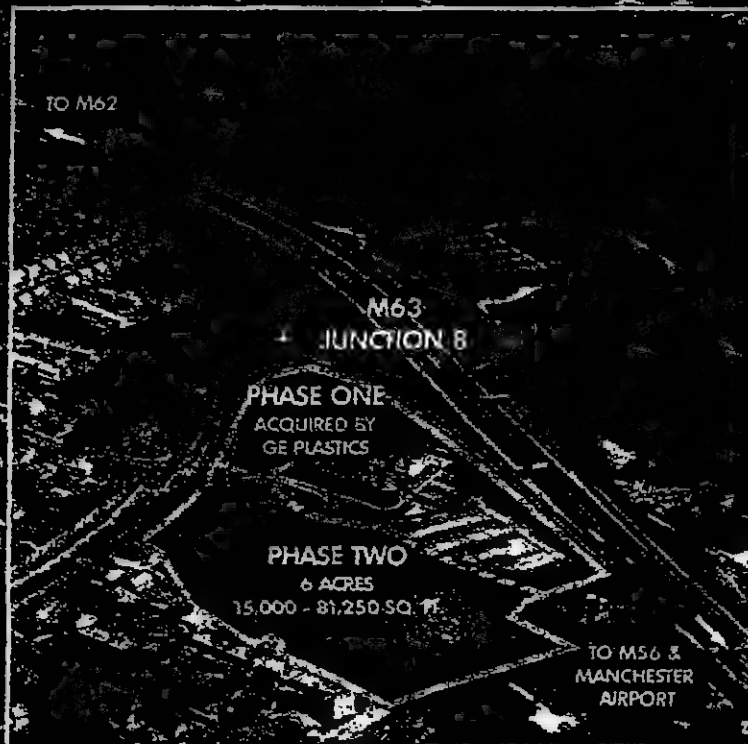
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The range of circulation has reached not only investors, but also developers and potential occupiers. We would have no hesitation in recommending other agents to promote their Clients' commercial properties in The Times Newspaper."

Glenn Haley of Hutchings & Thomas Chartered Surveyors comments on experience in advertising in The Times' Commercial Property Section.

THE TIMES
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Marketing Secretary

£17,000 + O.T. + Bonus + Free Gym

Leading management consultancy is seeking a lively secretary for 50/50 role supporting a partner who has a brilliant sense of humour and his small busy team. If you have a minimum of three years secretarial experience and want to really utilise your naturally proactive nature this role will give you the challenge you need. 60wpm typing and computer literacy essential. Please call Kate Martin on 0171 437 6032 for more information.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Secretary to 2 Directors

£17,000 - £18,000

Dynamic financial PR company close to Liverpool Street station are seeking a first-class secretary to assist two of their directors. A proven track record is required to deal with typing proposals and reports, travel arrangements, diaries and top level client liaison. Good knowledge of WordPerfect 5.1, 60wpm typing and recognised secretarial qualifications. Age 25-40. Please call Sarah on 0171 377 9919

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Legal Secretary

£18,000 - £20,000

Established solicitors are in need of a legal secretary for their Senior Partner. Working in smart offices you will be expected to type confidential legal documents, look after the diary and perform general secretarial duties. If you have 55 wpm and at least 1 years' legal experience in conveyancing then please call Lisanne on 0171 377 9919

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Senior Secretary to £18,000 + good bens

Established blue chip company based in the heart of the West End is looking to recruit an experienced PA to work for 2 Directors. Your excellent secretarial and administrative skills will be put to full use with these dynamic bosses! This is a social company where you will be well rewarded for your hard work. 100wpm shorthand is essential. Please call Isabel for more details on 0171 437 6032

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Personnel £15,000 + free lunches

Personnel dept of a prestigious leisure company needs an assistant with a minimum of 1 years personnel experience. Lots of involvement and interesting projects are guaranteed, along with the opportunity to take your IPD. A confidential, friendly person with typing of 50wpm+ is essential. Good O Levels and ideal age is 23-30. Please call Emma 0171 437 6032

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

JUNIOR SECS x 3

To £15,000 + Bens

I currently have 3 very different opportunities for bright second/first jobbers to break into the City. The first position is for a Receptionist/Typist for a small Bank, minimum typing speed of 30 wpm. The second is for a Secretary/Administrator for a medium sized Finance House and the third is for the dealing floor of a large American Bank.

Please contact Melinda Marks.
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No. 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel No. 0171-625 1266 Fax No. 0171-625 1262

JONATHAN WREN SECRETARIES

80% ADMIN!!!

To £20,000 + MS + Bens

A once in a lifetime opportunity! This prestigious City Bank has an immediate opening for a competent Administrator/Secretary to work on the Trading Floor. The position requires full administrative back-up to three busy Executives and the co-ordination of all office procedures. It will include arranging extensive travel itineraries, supervision of the team secretaries and general office management. 27-32.

Please contact Melinda Marks.
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No. 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel No. 0171-625 1266 Fax No. 0171-625 1262

JONATHAN WREN SECRETARIES

TEAM CITY SEC

To £17,000 + MS + Bens

Busy role for a competent Secretary with strong administrative skills. Working for a team of Executives in Fixed Income in this leading City Bank, the duties will include travel and entertainment co-ordination, the preparation of presentation material and composing your own correspondence. Requirements include MS Word for Windows and senior level experience.

Please contact Melinda Marks.
Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd,
No. 1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel No. 0171-625 1266 Fax No. 0171-625 1262

JONATHAN WREN SECRETARIES

WA £18,000 - £20,000 + Excellent Bens

"A DEMANDING ROLE"

Would you like to work for a progressive firm, with a flat hierarchy, fabulous benefits and a commitment to "investing in you"? Our client, a prestigious firm of Management Consultants are looking for a switched on secretary to become fully involved with the work of a Senior Partner and his team. You will attend meetings, control the diary and appointments, make travel arrangements and liaise with clients over the telephone. If you are A-level educated, have a minimum of 60 wpm typing and excellent windows experience then please call Victoria Wall to hear more about this involved and challenging role call 0171 225 1888.

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

WA £18,000 + Bens

"DEAL WITH THE DEALERS"

This leading European investment bank urgently requires a strong and confident secretary to work with a team of lively Equity Sales Managers. You will ideally be in your 20s, have plenty of energy and drive as well as good computer skills (Amipro and Freelance) as you support these busy and demanding people. Plenty of organisation and admin to do as you juggle your day and work under near constant pressure. This job is not for the faint hearted so if you can give as good as you get and thrive on pressure then call Sarah Williams on 0171 225 1888. Benefits include mortgage sub, bonus, 57L, medical cover and subsidised lunch.

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

Rare gem for dynamic setting

PA to Managing Director

to £20,000 - Brentford

In just ten years, Orion Media Marketing plc has achieved a turnover of some £45 million, making us the UK's number one computer supplies distributor. Our success is driven by energetic people working in an informal environment, distributing and marketing products on behalf of suppliers such as 3M, Sony, IBM, Digital and Hewlett Packard. Within our open culture, there is plenty of scope for you to determine the shape and success of this role.

Our MD has been with us from the start. He's 33, totally involved, dynamic and utterly committed. He needs a rare gem who can organise, plan and manage his time - both confident and spokesperson, with the competence to take on a variety of delegated work.

You should be educated to A-Level, with RSA III, advanced PC skills and at least five years' experience as a PA or Senior Secretary. You will need a proactive approach, the ability to manage upwards and maturity to handle confidential information. A second European language would be extremely useful.

For the right person, there's security and opportunity in a growing company. We offer an attractive salary package, including valuable benefits.

To apply, please write with a full CV, including salary details, to Nicola Cawley, Orion Media Marketing plc, 950 West West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9BJ.

Orion
MEDIA MARKETING

NUMBER ONE IN COMPUTER SUPPLIES

TIME FOR A CHANGE?

ADMIN/SECRETARY
£19,000 + unbeatable benefits
Would you enjoy being part of a highly successful organisation - constantly rising with professionals at the highest level, juggling various tasks, all at the same time and still be able to smile? Your excellent secretarial ability combined with your organisational skills will give you the opportunity to prove your worth and to be rewarded. You will have at least 5 years experience within a blue chip environment and be preferably aged 25-35.

SECRETARY/RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Maths A-Level £16,000 + benefits
Are you looking to break the secretarial mould? This international, luxury Plo is looking to recruit its planning department with a bright secretary who can take on research duties. If you have excellent secretarial skills, have knowledge of Word for Windows, PowerPoint & Excel and have a problem-solving, logical mind - this could be for you.

LOADS OF OVERTIME
£17,500 + banking benefits
Do you have the creative desire to produce high quality, professional presentations, combined with the expertise to organise busy executives? If you have an interest in banking and are looking for a busy, involved position which encompasses diary management, complex travel arrangements & production of graphics - give us a call.

PAN EUROPEAN
RECRUITMENT

Please call us now on
0171-734 8484

ART WORLD

£20-25,000

Successful art world employers are looking for a business administrator to manage the day-to-day running of the business. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of administrative tasks, including managing the company's finances, liaising with clients and suppliers, and organising the company's events. The successful candidate will be a proactive, organised, and motivated individual with a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and benefits package. Please send your CV to: Angela Mortimer, 10 Maynard Close, Kings Road, London SW6 2DB.

The right candidate is an utterly professional PA, socially adept, stylish, preferably with a business or a client services background. Interests in art and languages (French) would be very useful. Skills 100/60. All applications are positively welcomed. Contact us now at Angela Mortimer plc (Rec Cons) on: **0171-814 0800**

Angela Mortimer

Personal Secretary/Personal Assistant

£16,500 p.a. - £18,500 p.a.

The Surrey Institute wishes to appoint a Personal Secretary/Personal Assistant to the Deputy Director. The Personal Secretary will be expected to manage the office of the Deputy Director and to provide first line professional support in the Deputy Director's pursuit of his duties.

This is a significant high grade secretarial post and will suit someone seeking advancement within, or promotion into administration in Higher Education. The successful candidate will be educated to HND/degree level, with some training in administration/office management and will probably have been a regular participant in a relevant professional development scheme. Well-developed secretarial skills are essential - including shorthand, wordprocessing, DTP, and spreadsheet experience. They will have a proven record of success in their career to date.

The Surrey Institute of Art & Design is a specialised University sector college. It awards its own degrees. It has nearly 3,000 students located on campuses at Farnham and Epsom. Formerly known as the West Surrey College of Art & Design, it changed its name on 1 December 1994 consequent upon its merger with the Epsom School of Art & Design.

For further details please contact Miranda Druett, Personnel Assistant, The Surrey Institute of Art & Design, Falkner Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7DS. Tel: (01252) 732216 (24 hours) quoting Reference DIR/PA. e-mail: mdruett@surrey.ac.uk.

For an informal discussion about the post, prospective applicants may contact Mr Gary Crossley, Deputy Director, on (01252) 732224; e-mail: gcrossley@surrey.ac.uk. Closing date for receipt of applications is 19th May 1995.

THE SURREY INSTITUTE
OF ART & DESIGN

A university sector college incorporating West Surrey College of Art & Design and Epsom School of Art & Design

WEST END PROPERTY SOLICITORS

Highly competent, conscientious, experienced commercial conveyancing solicitor for partner in friendly, informal practice using WP5.1. Salary £21,000. Tel 0171 486 4432 ref: LP

Manors & Co. OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED

Busy W1 Estate Agents Salary £11,000 Tel 0171 486 5982

Maime-Tucker Recruitment Consultants

THE FRAUD SQUAD

£20,000

This friendly and buzzing City team are experts in the work of business crime and investigation to crisis management across the world. They need an alert, intelligent professional PA for their MD. He's very busy, so your expertise is desperately needed! To succeed in this interesting company, it's vital that you are team minded, and believe in working in a happy environment. If you're 25-35 with 60 typing, 80 shorthand and an excellent work record, please call for something a little different.

18-21 Jernyn Street, London SW1Y 6HP Telephone 0171 734 7341

RECEPTIONIST to £17K
Superb opportunity for a first class receptionist to join this leading firm of management consultants. If you are looking for a varied role, excellent benefits, then this could be for you! Call Anna Masgrave at Tate Appointments on 0171 406 0424.

Maime-Tucker Recruitment Consultants

LEICESTERSHIRE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BORDERS PA TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

£18-20,000 + PENS + PRP + SUB LUNCH + SOCIAL FACILITIES

This established and thriving company needs a confident and extremely professional PA (25-40) to work primarily for their Chief Exec. You will find yourself working at the pinnacle of a successful, fast moving organisation. So you'll need to be used to pressure, organised & capable of understanding the business, so that you can look after projects delegated to yourself; and have skills of 80 shorthand, 60 typing. However, all the heavy weight positions, the ability to multi-task, and handle routine admin is a must. The beauty of this position is, that you are working for an organisation whose products are bought by major household names. This is a true test of the true position for an ambitious and energetic PA, so call immediately.

18-21 Jernyn Street, London SW1Y 6HP Telephone 0171 734 7341

Maime-Tucker Recruitment Consultants

Knightsbridge SPOILT ROTTEN... £21,000 + BENEFITS

...is what you'll be if you've got the guts to admit that you like working in a go, go, go environment where its work hard and then you can play! This entrepreneurial senior partner who has turned the traditional image of legal on its head, needs a real team PA (25-35). It's a smart office where your abilities are paramount. It's mainly secretarial but you'll also have to multi-task in like everyone else. Yes, it's hard work, but you really are appreciated and the hard work you do is rewarded one way or another. If you like the idea of working for someone who has made things happen for himself, then we'd like to hear from you.

18-21 Jernyn Street, London SW1Y 6HP Telephone 0171 734 7341

PA to Children's Software Publisher

The Director of Development in Europe for our Family Entertainment products is based in our Central London office, and urgently needs an enthusiastic and able assistant, who can combine flair with a sense of humour.

You will provide full secretarial support and assistance to the Director in all her forward planning - arranging meetings, travel, diary appointments, project planning and so forth.

There is extensive liaison with the Los Angeles and the five key European offices, and a constantly busy and varied work environment. You will also be involved in project development, and particularly in the creation and monitoring of marketing materials, within this exciting new interactive product area.

Experience of multimedia publishing will be an advantage, but it is not essential. More important are some - and preferably all - of the following: a sound educational background; experience of some aspect of producing material for children; a highly developed organisational ability and good attention to detail; familiarity with at least one European language; computer literacy (Microsoft Word 6, Excel 5, Filemaker Pro); and several years' experience of office - ideally corporate office - procedures.

If you are self-motivated, hard-working and confident; good with people; and a flair for working both to instruction and on your own initiative; then this might be the right job for you.

Please write, as soon as possible, telling us why and including details of your current position and salary to our managing consultant, Pamela Mostyn, quoting ref: 1820/01, Lansdowne, Rosedale House, Rosedale Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2SZ.

Interviews will be held at Philips in Central London.

PHILIPS

Maime-Tucker Recruitment Consultants

Bilingual Fluent French PA TO PRESIDENT

£25,000 + 5WKS HOLS + MED + PENS

If you consider yourself to be one of the elite PAs sought after by prestigious London companies, then consider applying for a rare opportunity. This stylish European company needs a mature PA (30s with good shorthand) with a professional approach for organising and discretion for personal work. This is a really lovely job for an elegant PA with written and spoken fluent French, who would relish an opportunity to work in a luxurious and world renowned company. Interested? Please call.

18-21 Jernyn Street, London SW1Y 6HP Telephone 0171 734 7341

MEDIA PA £30,000

Busy role organising the personal life of the Chairman of this famous media company. Previous relevant experience and fast shorthand (120wpm) essential. You'll enjoy working in an unstructured environment and with an unchanging schedule. Hours 10am-7pm. Age 28-38 years. Please telephone 0171 495 8070 or 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MD'S SECRETARY £22,000

If you are a career secretary offering dedication and an outgoing personality, this could be the role for you. The Managing Director, active in a banking environment is looking for someone with proven organisational ability and graphics experience. Skills 80/80. Age 30-45. Please telephone 0171 628 9523.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PUBLIC RELATIONS £20,000 + Bens

Do you have the dynamism to keep up with this high powered Chief Executive? She needs a strong organiser to manage her busy work schedules, with the ability to handle new business support and the in-house training programme. Excellent presentation, A-levels, shorthand, Word for Windows or Word 5.1 essential. Age 28-38. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

GRAPHICS DESIGN £20,000 + Package

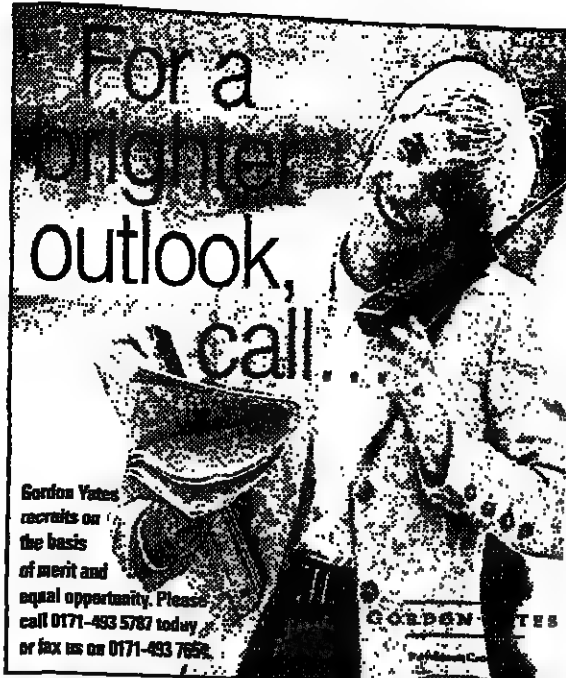
Join this creative team of professionals within Investment Banking and utilise your proven graphics literacy and presentation skills. This unique role will offer book production, poster and invitation design. Experience with Powerpoint, Freelance Graphics, Corel Draw, Excel and MS Word would be an advantage. Excellent prospects and benefits. Please telephone 0171 628 9523.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TEAM SECRETARY £18.5K + £4K BONUS ++

The international Capital Markets operation of this highly regarded European bank based in the West End is offering high rewards for a switched on senior team secretary. You will be used to pressure, long hours and have good Word for Windows, Spreadsheets and graphics. Age mid 20's to early 30's. Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS



Admin Flair?

Our client, a well known retail institution with an international reputation for quality and exclusivity, seeks a PA to Admin/Finance Director. This is a wide-ranging role requiring first class support skills plus the ability to manage recruitment, personnel admin, property maintenance etc. Relevant experience essential. Accurate shorthand/typing (100wpm) requested.

Country Houses

Are your roots in the countryside? Are you an enthusiastic, energetic self-starter? This is an exceptional role, helping a small media team to maintain a high PR profile through close links with press and media and thereby help to market country homes, estates etc. Accurate keyboard skills plus minimum 12 months' secretarial experience required.

In Touch, In Fashion

Exciting, expanding fashion chain seeks Assistant Admin Manager. Brilliant 'one-off' role with prospects as part of a small, tight-knit HQ team, handling everything from incoming calls to outgoing post, liaison with the stores to helping with sales reports, from organising business lunches to fetching the sandwiches! If you have some secretarial experience plus an interest in fashion, please call.

The Group in question is a major South-East based utility which has successfully transformed itself into a dynamic plc with a growing range of businesses. The Group Finance Director is one of the more senior and influential instigators of change and therefore needs the support of a secretary who welcomes and can handle the highest level of involvement. Advanced WordPerfect 6.0a Windows, 120 wpm shorthand and accurate audio typing are just the basic qualifications. What will really impress our client is your presence, the way you manage to communicate easily with anyone while maintaining absolute discretion, and the way your experience in a financial environment has made you familiar with its terminology and aware of some of its issues. With two years' experience at the very least, you'll have developed the flexibility which will enable you to work effectively. Your salary would be around £18,000, and possibly more if your background and qualities are truly exceptional. Among an extensive benefits list, that includes private healthcare, must be counted our Client's unusually attractive working environment - made even more attractive by a strict no-smoking policy. If you're interested in a very senior secretarial role that will fully live up to its expectations, send your C.V. to Jonathan Wood, Consultant, Austin Knight UK Limited, Knightway House, 20 Soho Square, London W1A 1DS. Tel: 0171 439 5886. Confidential fax number 0171 439 5744. Closing date: 12th May 1995.

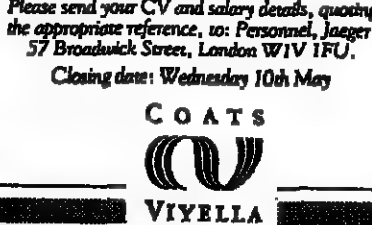
PERSONAL SECRETARY TO GROUP FINANCE DIRECTOR

Austin Knight

JAEGGER

SECRETARIAL OPPORTUNITIES AT JAEGGER

Jaeger is renowned as an international fashion group within the Coats Virella PLC portfolio. Our busy Head Office is now looking for 2 Secretaries to work at Director level. Part-time Secretary, 25 hours a week, including Mondays. Ideally suited to someone returning to work after a career break, the position calls for shorthand and PC skills as well as a flexible attitude and a confident and mature approach. Ref: SHMPT PA to the Sales Director. Starting on a temporary basis for 3 months, it could potentially be longer. We are looking for a mature personality combined with shorthand skills and a confident telephone manner. You will need WP 5.1 experience and will ideally be familiar with Lotus Spreadsheets and Harvard Graphics. Ref: FRCS For the right people the rewards are high. We offer a competitive salary with a full benefits package. Please send your CV and salary details, quoting the appropriate reference, to: Personnel, Jaeger, 57 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1BU. Closing date: Wednesday 10th May



WORKING BIG!

Executive PA c£25,000

This is an important position working in magnificent offices for a major player in the City. The busy, dynamic Managing Director is looking for a real right hand - someone he can trust to literally run his life. The position is as high profile as it is sound, working in a demanding, exciting environment for a very successful Executive. Age and previous city experience is not an issue here, indeed the right candidate could be between 25-35 yrs, and working at Director level within a major West End PLC. You'll be a 'down-to-earth' PA with proven secretarial (routinely shorthand a must) and organisational skills, and a social awareness of the latest events in the 'season' and the hottest venues in London. If big numbers and a big career appeal to you, call NOW on 0171 260 0040 or fax bar on 0171 240 1888 and open some doors. Working Girls Ltd, Professional Recruitment, 17 Tavistock St, Covent Garden, London WC2E 7PA.

PA/SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN AND FINANCE DIRECTOR

Marylebone Warwick Balfour, one of London's leading residential property developers, requires a confident and enthusiastic team player who has a flexible and positive approach to their work, and will thrive in a pressured environment. Applicants will need to be able to hold their own, coping with two very different personalities. Both directors are very demanding and work to the highest of standards, but this is a challenging role with the opportunity to get fully involved. They will join a young, lively and driven team where hard work and initiative is recognised and rewarded. A' Level education preferred, together with top secretarial skills to include shorthand and Windows experience. Immediate start. Age 20-30. Salary: AAE. Send CV to: Marylebone Warwick Balfour Group Plc, 1 West Garden Place, Kensal Street, London W2 2AQ

PA TO PARTNER

We are looking for an experienced PA to our London based international Partner. The position requires excellent organisational and communication skills and the ability to work effectively both independently and within a team. Good secretarial skills are essential. The successful candidate will be required to demonstrate flexibility and commitment. Salary negotiable. Please reply with full career details and salary expectations to Ms Sandy McCann (Turner) at Owens Construction Consultants, 10 John Adam St, London WC2N 6HA. No agencies

PERSONAL ASSISTANT LONDON W1

The Principal of a highly successful financial planning company, based in the West End, is looking for a highly motivated and capable, committed person. The ability to provide excellent professional client care is essential. This is a career for someone with excellent written and verbal communication skills to develop their potential. You must possess a variety of administrative and software experience, including Word for Windows, Excel and PowerPoint together with at least 60 wpm audio typing. Financial Services training provided. If you would like to be considered, please telephone 01793 802161 for an application form quoting reference K81

CREATIVE FRAGRANCES LTD

2, 895, North Elm Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7LD. Telephone: 0181 201 4200 Fax: 0181 201 4315.

Secretary/Assistant to Sales & Marketing Director

The UK subsidiary of Antonio Puig/Paco Rabanne Perfumes is looking for a talented and flexible person to assist and support the Director in his role which encompasses Sales, Marketing, Media and Public Relations. Experienced candidates will need Windows Office knowledge, shorthand skills and a flexible, pragmatic and enthusiastic outlook. There will be ample opportunity to show initiative and to contribute to the success of this dynamic and liberal organisation. The package will be commensurate with the importance of the role and will include salary, bonus and an opportunity to join the Company's Pension Scheme. In the first instance, please send your CV to Miss Y. Pegg at the above address. STRICTLY NO AGENCIES

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

c£19,000

This exciting role within the world's leading Wines & Spirits marketing company is for a confident, intelligent Executive Secretary who has excellent secretarial skills, is a 'wiz' on Windows, Freelance, Lotus 123 etc and enjoys producing high quality documents. Working on one of their major brands also needs excellent interpersonal skills, an eye for detail, bags of initiative and a great sense of humour. Call HAZEL BRANDON, 0171-493 1528

SEGAL RECRUITMENT

SALES AND MARKETING

Full/Part Time. Articulate, well spoken individuals required by City based information broker. Must be able to deal at Senior Director level. Basic + bonus + bonus. Call RUPERT STRATTON on 0171 586 7078

CHAIRMAN'S PA

Covering Maternity Leave. Leading market research company based in the West End. Park Corner needs first class PA for approximately 6 months, from mid-May. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please write with details of current position, salary & CV to: Personnel Manager, Hilson, 16 St. James's Place, London SW1A 1BD.

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

German. c£20,000 + paid P. Planning. First moving house secretarial position. You must be confident, efficient and have a good knowledge of German. Please send your CV to: Recruitment Services, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

DARMSTADT (or Frankfurt)

Sec/Asst (English/Mother-tongue with fluent basic German - French useful) for varied role. WdP/Win 50wpm. 23-30 years. Generous salary + bonus + exp. Paris: (1) 44 41 82 57. London: 0171-294 6446

Sheila Burgess

LANGUAGE MATTERS

GERMAN/FRENCH triling exec pa/sec for intl W Lon co. Exp at intl level. 25-35 £30K + bens. FRENCH biling sec (Eng/Mt) for new post in city co. Client liaison & DTP duties. 25-35. £17K + bens. GERMAN PA Sec for Euro bank - prev city exp. £20K. DUTCH exp. 25-35 for adv. con. sim exp pref. Jn post also avail. £12-20K exp. FRENCH Sales admin for W Lon co. Car exp. £12K. GERMAN + 1 other Euro lang cust servs/telesales rep. Grd + initiative. £15K OTE. Tel: 0171 930 1811 Fax 0171 925 0058. Geneva House, 20 Empress Place, London WC2N 6BN (adj)

Experienced Secretary/PA

required to work in a busy international media sales company as bank PA to the company's managing director and general office administrator. French speaker essential, Italian and Spanish useful. The ideal candidate will be aged between 25-35 and have a minimum of 3 years' experience in a busy/high pressured working atmosphere. He/she must have excellent time-management skills. References will be required. To start as soon as possible. Please apply in writing with CV to Greg Corbett Associates, 63 Shelton Street, London WC2N 8HE

Trading Floor

German £25,000 package

A high profile, expanding team in one of the City's top merchant banks urgently needs a secretary with German shorthand. Working on the trading floor alongside two other secretaries, you will need Windows experience and a natural ability to smile through long, busy days! Financial experience preferred. Generous package includes mortgage subsidy, bonus and paid overtime. Age 25-35. Please call Jenny Ross on 0171-434 4512

Crone Corkill Multilingual

DIAMOND CHAIRMAN IS SEEKING THE PERFECT GEM

If you are a top grade executive PA with a cool, calm & collected personality you could be the one! We are based in EC1 and are looking for someone with relevant experience, the ability to work as part of a team, a good telephone manner and a smart appearance. This is a challenging, small office (non smoking) environment and you will have diverse responsibilities. Shorthand 100wpm, WP 5.1, WP & Excel for Windows ideal. Age 28 +. Salary negotiable. Please reply with CV & salary expectations to Box No 6036

SECRETARY - WI

Secretary for two partners required in a small, busy, hardworking firm of surveyors. Must be proficient in WAW, Excel and Audio, some knowledge of book-keeping is also advantageous. Ability to work on own initiative and under pressure essential. Salary according to age and experience. All previously booked holidays honoured. Please apply in writing with current CV to: Reddin-Clancy & Company, 1 Durdash Street, London W1N 3DE, attn: Miss Pauline Kennedy - closing date for applications 14 May 1995.

AUDIO SECRETARY FOR MAYFAIR PROPERTY FIRM

If you have three or more years' secretarial experience, enjoy team work, and are skilled in Word for Windows 6, you may be the person we are seeking now for a key role in our Professional Department. Salary £16,000 plus benefits. Apply in writing with CV, to: Head of Administration, 13 Hill Street, London, W1X 8DL. Fax 0171 491 0917

PA/OFFICE MANAGER IN PROPERTY

Maternity Leave Cover. Small West End Commercial Property Advisers require a top class PA to work for the two Partners. Applicants must have suitable organisational skills, WP1 experience and be a team player. Please write with full CV to: Mr. Nigel Bland, 18 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0SR. NO AGENCIES

Knight Frank & Rutley

Secretary required to work for partner and his team in friendly Knightsbridge office. Good working knowledge of WAW, fast accurate typing and good English essential. Must have good organisational skills and be able to work under some pressure. Please send a CV and covering letter to: A. Panaville, 152 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9DB

CITY PA

Required for Managing Director of small insurance-related company based in EC3. Shorthand and good working knowledge of Microsoft Word essential. Must have good organisational skills and be able to work under pressure. CV and covering letter to Amanda Hill, 4/5 Castle Court, London EC3V 9DL

SUPER SECRETARIES

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WEDNESDAY MAY 3 1995

Stand of 210 between Atherton and Gallian takes cup-tie beyond Warwickshire

Lancashire open closing debate on champions

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

EDGBASTON (Lancashire won toss; Lancashire (2pts) beat Warwickshire by 40 runs)

TIME after time last season, Warwickshire contrived victory from the most unpromising positions and yesterday, while Andy Moles and Dominic Oslter were laying the Lancashire attack to all parts of Edgbaston, the force was apparently still with them. An imposing target of 306 was ultimately beyond them, however, and so too, it would seem, is the defence of the first of their three titles.

Within the revived group qualifying system in the Benson and Hedges Cup, the holders have lost two of their first three games. They are not quite eliminated yet but, already, the style with which they started and swept aside all comers last summer is being challenged. That they are going to find things much tougher, as exposed and scrutinised champions, cannot now be in doubt.

Lancashire present an interesting contrast. For some years they have been expected to achieve things that their results have not justified. Like their neighbours, Yorkshire, but with the additional factor of rich resources, they have been a big club with small playing returns. Perhaps this is to be their year. With a deep and attractive batting order and a durable attack, a one-day event should be within their compass. Only the certainty that major limited-overs matches for Lancashire would attract many more of the bawling underclass who occupied a corner of Edgbaston yesterday prevents this being a matter to celebrate unreservedly.

Last Tuesday, in their previous Benson and Hedges game, Lancashire had successfully chased 313. Yesterday, on a batsman's pitch and

in glorious spring weather, they made almost as many. The tone of the game was quickly set. Allan Donald deciding that a short run-up and concentration on control was his best option, and nothing disturbed Michael Atherton and Jason Gallian as they took their first-wicket stand to the lunch interval and beyond, both making chanceless centuries.

Atherton had watched Donald's first ball fizz past his

High-flying Waugh 42
 Wren seizes chance 43
 Lamb's mint 43

nose, but he would have anticipated nothing less. Thereafter, he played scarcely a false shot, tested as he was by the perennial accuracy of Gladstone Small. In two previous cup games, Small had conceded 45 runs in 22 overs. Here, remarkably, he bowled his quota of 11 for 25.

There are not long odds against Gallian playing a Test

SCOREBOARD

LANCASHIRE	
M A Atherton c Reeve b Smith	114
J E R Gallian not out	116
P C Crawley c Small b Smith	116
N H Fairbrother not out	60
Edgar (lb 5, nb 10)	19
Total (8 wickets, 88 overs)	306
WARWICKSHIRE	
A J Moles c and b Yates	89
N V Knight b Austin	73
D P Oslter c Watkinson b Yates	73
G G Vernon c Hogg b Martin	40
T L Parry c Hogg b Yates	1
D A Reeve b Austin	30
N M K Smith c Atherton b Wren	2
TM Burns b Watkinson	12
C C Small c Martin	2
C C Small not out	2
A A Donald c Watkinson b Wren	2
Edgar (lb 4, nb 13)	2
Total (21.1 overs)	259
FALL OF WICKETS	
1-210, 2-214	
BOWLING: Donald 11-0-47-0; Small 11-2-25-0; Reeve 11-0-50-0; Welch 11-0-103-0; Smith 11-0-77-4	

match this summer, perhaps even with Atherton as his partner, but while the England captain has begun the season expansively, the anglicised Australian has struggled. He took time to find fluency yesterday but was playing with complete certainty by the time Warwickshire stand to their first breach in the 43rd over, with the total 210.

Neil Smith had just been driven straight for six by Gallian when he tempted Atherton to make room and drive to extra-cover. John Crawley was in too much of a hurry and heaved a long hop from the same bowler to deep square leg but Warwickshire's chance to restrict the total, maybe to win the match, came and went when Neil Fairbrother was dropped, second ball, on nought.

It was such a straightforward edge off Small that Fairbrother was wheeling away to the pavilion when he realised Burns had dropped the catch. The real sufferer was Graeme Welch, contentiously preferred to Paul Smith in the Warwickshire side and now kept on by Reeve for his full 11 overs despite taking a unmerciful punishment. Most of Fairbrother's 60, scored from 34 balls, came off Welch, whose concession of 103 runs was the highest in this competition. Compassionately, the public address announcer declined to offer his figures at the end of his spell.

Warwickshire have not lost the self-belief that sustained them last year and they did not flinch from their task, even after losing Knight in Austin's first over. Moles and Oslter added 158 in the next 28 overs and Watkinson's second spell of three overs for 35 was so dreadful that Lancashire briefly looked in disarray.

It was Yates, as unfashionable a cricketer as most of Warwickshire's were last year, who turned the game again. His three wickets in five overs included Moles and Oslter, whereupon it was all too much for the lower order, despite some brave blows from the chastened Welch.



Atherton moves closer to his century at Edgbaston during Lancashire's victory over Warwickshire

OLYMPIC GAMES 46

MURDOCH'S INTEREST IN SYDNEY TV RIGHTS RAISES STAKES

Manchester in prime position for Games of 2002

By John Goodbody

MANCHESTER yesterday formally handed over its bid for the Commonwealth Games in 2002, the fifth anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

With no other city bidding for the Games and the deadline expiring today, England seems certain to host the event for the first time since 1934.

Sir Bob Scott, who has led two unsuccessful attempts to bring the Olympic Games to Great Britain, said: "In no way do we regard the Commonwealth Games as a consolation for not getting the Olympics."

"They are a great prize in their own right. We have the vision and organisation to make them the best ever."

The Commonwealth Games Federation will visit Manchester in July and then the 68 member countries will ratify the candidature at a meeting in Bermuda in November.

Manchester, which defeated London in February 1994 to be England's nomination for the Games, already has a cluster of facilities available for 2002, partly as a result of the unsuccessful Olympic bids.

The city is also about to open a large multi-purpose sports centre this summer.

However, Manchester still requires a 50-metre swimming pool, because existing facilities at Stockport do not include adequate spectator accommodation.

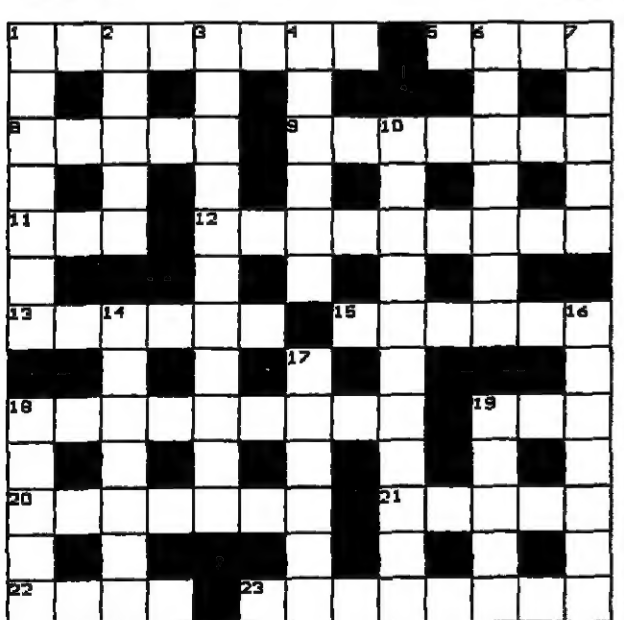
The pool will be sited at Wigan, where the renowned swimming club and the local community will be able to make ample use of the facility after the Games.

The greater uncertainty is the future role of the athletics stadium, close to the new cycling arena in the east of Manchester. Three cities — London, Birmingham and Manchester — hope to get the nominations for the venue for the new national stadium.

However, with Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United, soon to have the capacity for 55,000 spectators, the city is already well served for football.

The location of the national stadium will depend partly on the opinions of the Football Association and the Premier League. The FA has a contract to hold internationals and the FA Cup Final at Wembley until 2002.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 461

- ACROSS**
- Intellectual (8)
 - Homeless, neglected child (4)
 - River mouth; Greek letter (5)
 - Feather in cap (7)
 - Residue of burning (3)
 - Kerry town, tourist centre for Lakes (9)
 - Fur cape (6)
 - Break, gap (6)
 - Disorder; lack of clarity (9)
 - Amis's Lucky, Conrad's Lord (3)
 - Wealthy (7)
 - Of birds (5)
 - Fishpond; cooked dish (4)
 - Headlong, in disorder (4-4)
- DOWN**
- Water-main outlet (7)
 - Ravine with torrent (5)
 - Anna Sewell horse story (5,6)
 - (Eg doctor) available if needed (2,4)
 - Opposing (7)
 - Like flame; easily aroused (5)
 - Unmistakable summons (7,4)
 - Act of contrition (7)
 - Original and important (7)
 - Start (fire) (6)
 - Albert — 20C French writer (5)
 - Fruit liquid (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 460

ACROSS: 1 Chic 4 Mouthful 8 Have a few 9 Veil 10 Teens 11 Bedroom 13 Patrol 15 Decamp 18 Harvard 20 Joist 23 Tend 24 Hoarding 25 Broadway 26 Dope

DOWN: 2 Heave 3 Cleaner 4 Muff 5 Unwieldy 6 Hover 7 Uniform 10 Top 12 Clerihew 14 Amateur 16 Crowded 17 Pot 19 Vodka 21 Sun-up 22 Wary

United give themselves outside chance for title

By Peter Ball

MANCHESTER United's win against Coventry City at Highfield Road on Monday night has persuaded the bookmakers to recast their odds for a title race that had looked over. If United beat Sheffield Wednesday at Old Trafford on Sunday, Blackburn Rovers' lead at the top of the FA Carling Premiership, eight points at 48 hours ago, will be reduced to just two.

Yet, with only two games remaining, the run-in still leaves Blackburn as favourites. "We can no longer win the championship, Blackburn can only lose it," Alex Ferguson said after his team's 0-0 draw with Chelsea in their last match at Old Trafford — and that remains true today.

Blackburn have been making some fine of losing it in recent weeks and they look capable of finishing second in what was a one-horse race. They have won only once in their past four games.

However, although on paper Blackburn have the more formidable opposition in Newcastle United and Liverpool, it may not turn out that way. Newcastle, who visit Ewood Park on Monday, may still need the points to qualify for Europe, but they have been playing poorly in recent weeks and their small side is ill-equipped to counter Black-

burn's physical approach. With their European qualification guaranteed, Liverpool will have little to play for the next Sunday. Blackburn need only to win their two matches.

The crucial question for United is whether Andy Cole's brilliant display at Coventry fully marked the return to glory of the most lethal predator in English football. Three of United's past four games at Old Trafford have ended goalless as the most fluent attacking side in English football began to stutter.

Cole, looking short of conviction for all his five goals against Ipswich Town, could not provide the key. At Coventry, he blossomed: if he is once again the player he was up to October last year, then United's chances of putting pressure on Blackburn by winning their games against Sheffield Wednesday and Southampton will be dramatically enhanced.

Sheffield Wednesday arrive at Old Trafford on Sunday with an outside threat of relegation still hanging over them, an incentive which adds a desperate edge to a team. Southampton are virtually safe and that should be the most straightforward of United's games.

The hardest, however, may come last. If West Ham United are still in danger of relegation, United will face the same frantic afternoon that proved too much for Blackburn on Sunday. With Cantona, Keane and Kanchelskis in vibrant form, they might have coped competently enough. As it is, the smart money remains on Blackburn.

Wasps keep faith with powerful runners

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

WASPS will keep faith with their highly mobile style in the Pilkington Cup final at Twickenham on Saturday, judging by their selection yesterday to meet Bath, the holders. They have preferred their powerful runners in the back division — Phil Hopley and Nick Greenstock — to the more delicate skills of Shane Roiser and have given Darren Maltby, the promising young prop, the loose-head berth.

While they are without Nick Poplewell, required by Ireland in Italy, consideration was given to Gary Holmes — who played in the 1986 final against Bath — but he has to be content with a place on the bench ahead of Jeff Probyn, the England prop. Matt Greenwood retains his place at lock in the same XV that beat Orrell 53-25 in the final league match of the season.

Both Rob Andrew and Damian Hopley, their England World Cup squad members, take the field for Wasps. Andrew, along with Steve Bates, his regular partner at scrum half, is the only survivor from the side that lost to Bath in 1987.

Perhaps the unluckiest player is Chris Wilkins, the back-row forward, who may not be fit to resume until midway through next season. Wasps are fortunate to have Mike White on call, his form at open-side flanker having been outstanding of late.

WASPS: J. Ulton, P. Hopley, D. Hopley, G. Holmes, N. Greenstock, R. Andrew, S. Bates, D. Maltby, R. Dunn, J. Dunston, J. Dingley, M. Greenwood, N. Hopley, M. White, D. Probyn, R. Roiser, S. Poplewell, G. Gilroy, A. Cornwell, R. Knapton, G. Holmes, P. Delany

Parma and Juventus begin private battle

TO THE casual onlooker, the Uefa Cup has become as Italian as pasta and chianti. When Juventus take on Parma in the first leg of the final tonight, they will embark on the third all-Italian Uefa Cup final in six years and complete a run of seven seasons in which at least one Italian team has reached the final. Yet, for once, the Cup is of almost secondary importance.

This season, it has become part of a greater head-to-head between Juve and Parma. They are disputing the Italian league title and meet in that competition on May 21. They begin hostilities in the Uefa

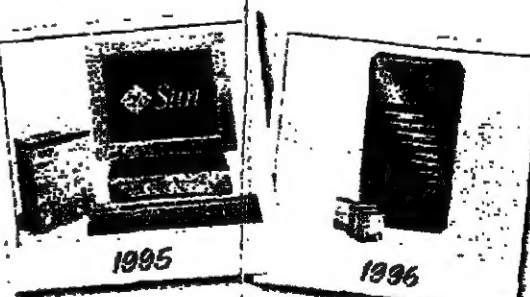
TOP OF TABLE

	P	D	L	F	A	P
Blackburn	40	25	8	6	78	37
Man Utd	30	24	5	5	72	28
Nottingham Forest	41	10	9	0	41	2

TO PLAY: Blackburn Rovers: May 8; Newcastle United (H): 14; Liverpool (A): 14; Manchester United: May 7; Sheffield Wednesday (H): 16; Southampton (H): 14; West Ham United (A).

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